

FINANCIAL DISTRICT

BATTERY PARK CITY/WTC SITE AREA

CITY HALL/SOUTH STREET SEAPORT

CHINATOWN

LOWER EAST SIDE

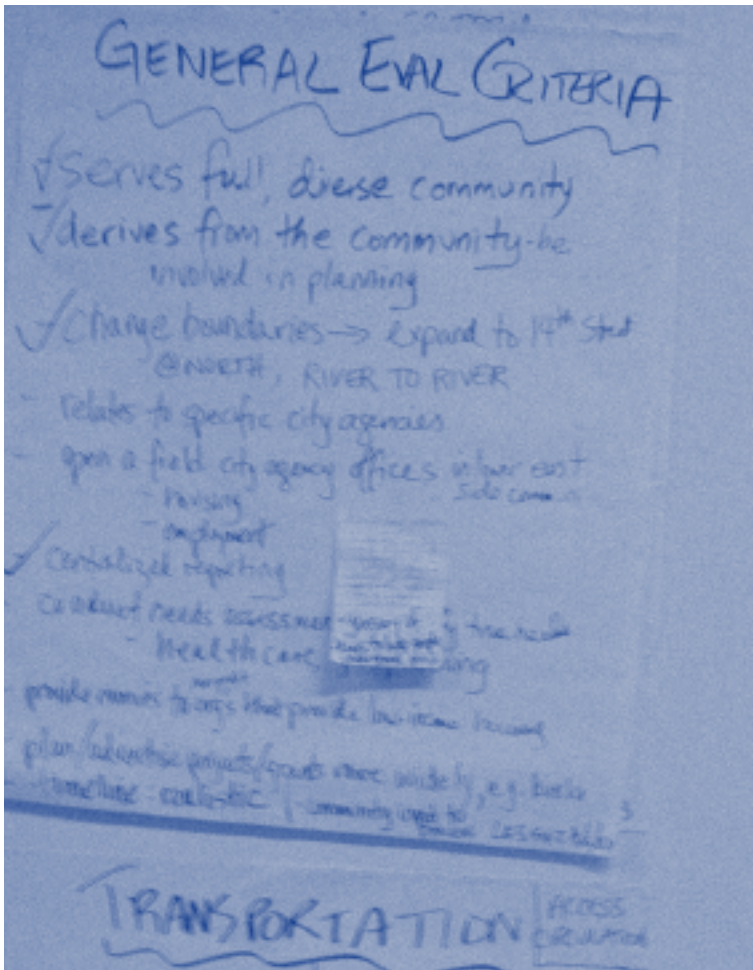
TRIBECA/SOHO/LITTLE ITALY



The City of New York

LOWER MANHATTAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – CITY OF NEW YORK

NEIGHBORHOOD WORKSHOPS SUMMARY REPORT



LOWER MANHATTAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION CITY NEIGHBORHOOD WORKSHOPS

SUMMARY REPORT

Table of Contents:

I. Overview and Purpose of Workshops	Page 4
II. Development of Workshop Plan and Participant Outreach	Page 6
III. Background of LMDC Funding Initiatives	Page 7
IV. Workshop Results	
Neighborhood Specific Themes	Page 8
Major Themes Across Workshops	Page 15
V. Overview of Survey Results	Page 25
VI. Appendices	
Workshop Dates and Locations	
Sample Workshop Agenda	
Sample Workshop Survey	
Workshop Notes	
Demographic Information – Survey Respondents	

Prepared by the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation and Hurley Franks and Associates.

OVERVIEW OF THE LOWER MANHATTAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) is a joint State-City agency that was created in the aftermath of September 11, 2001 by Governor Pataki and then-Mayor Giuliani to aid in the revitalization of Lower Manhattan in the area south of Houston Street. The LMDC was allocated \$2.783 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant Funding (CDBG) disaster recovery funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to fulfill its mission. This mission is focused on creating a permanent memorial to the victims of the February 26, 1993 and September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, overseeing the rebuilding of the World Trade Center site, and aiding in the revitalization of Lower Manhattan. The LMDC is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors, half of which are appointed upon recommendation of the Governor and half upon recommendation of the Mayor. The disaster recovery funds were granted to the State of New York by the federal government specifically to ameliorate adverse impacts related directly to the September 11th attacks within Lower Manhattan. This includes, but is not limited to, capital projects, assistance to victims of the attacks (individuals, nonprofits, and businesses) for economic losses related to the terrorist attacks, assistance for properties and businesses including the restoration of utility infrastructure damaged by the terrorist attacks, and aid to the travel and tourism industry.

There were two main purposes of the workshops: 1) to inform the communities about the LMDC-City initiatives 2) to provide a forum for these stakeholders to engage in small group discussions with other members of the community

Since its inception, the LMDC has been committed to conducting an open and inclusive public process. In April 2002, the LMDC released the Draft Principles and Preliminary Blueprint for the Future of Lower Manhattan, which outlined a set of priorities for the revitalization efforts. This document was revised based on public comment, and in July 2002, the LMDC released the Principles and Revised Preliminary Blueprint for Lower Manhattan. These documents became the foundation for moving forward with the revitalization efforts. The LMDC has since conducted numerous large-scale outreach campaigns to involve the public in the rebuilding of the World Trade Center site and the revitalization of Lower Manhattan. As part of these campaigns, the LMDC has conducted more than a dozen public meetings, sent mailings to thousands of family members of September 11th victims, received tens of thousands of comments via the LMDC website, and distributed thousands of flyers and other outreach materials to inform the public of the process. Several Advisory Councils representing a broad spectrum of groups affected by the World Trade Center attacks – including victims’ families, business owners, and downtown residents – are consulted on issues of concern to their respective constituencies. LMDC also regularly participates in Community Board meetings, and continuously meets with community groups, civic organizations, and public officials.

OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOPS

In a continuation of this public process, the LMDC and the Mayor’s Office of New York City sponsored seven community workshops during the summer of 2003 to discuss important issues surrounding future funding initiatives related to the rebuilding and revitalization of Lower Manhattan. To further understand the communities’ priorities and needs, it was critical to conduct these workshops in the specific neighborhoods within Lower Manhattan and hear directly from those who are most affected by the revitalization efforts – the residents, business owners, workers, and civic and cultural organizations. There were two main purposes of the workshops: 1) to inform the communities about LMDC-City initiatives, including short-term funding initiatives and long-term planning studies currently underway, and 2) to provide a forum for these stakeholders to engage in small group discussions with other members of the community about their priorities for the revitalization of their neighborhoods. For the purposes of the workshops, Lower Manhattan was divided into six smaller neighborhoods:

- * Financial District
- * Battery Park City/WTC site area
- * City Hall/South Street Seaport
- * Chinatown
- * Lower East Side
- * Tribeca/SoHo/Little Italy

The Chinatown and Lower East Side workshops were also held in coordination with Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver’s office.

These workshops were small in size and structured, with roundtable discussions involving participants representing the various stakeholders in the community. Participants were assigned to discussion groups so that each roundtable included varied interests and constituencies.



DEVELOPMENT OF WORKSHOP PLAN AND PARTICIPANT OUTREACH

In formulating public forums, the LMDC and the City solicited the input of several key civic organizations such as Imagine NY, New York New Visions, and the American Planning Association regarding the proposed format and structure of the workshops. Imagine NY has conducted hundreds of workshops related to the rebuilding process, and they, along with the other groups, were a valuable resource with respect to structure.

At each workshop, representatives from the LMDC and the City gave a presentation to participants, which detailed a number of initiatives currently underway. Specific topics in the presentation included components of the Mayor's Vision for Lower Manhattan and LMDC-City initiatives that affect each neighborhood, and Lower Manhattan as a whole, including numerous short-term initiatives intended to improve the quality of life in the area over a 12 to 18-month period announced by Governor Pataki earlier this year. The presentation also outlined numerous long-term planning studies being conducted by the LMDC and the City throughout Lower Manhattan.

After the presentation, participants were asked to begin discussing specific topics within their small groups of 5-10 people. The discussion agenda was created to allow participants to talk about criteria (i.e. what types of things are important to consider when looking at any program or funding initiative) and to brainstorm about specific project ideas for their neighborhoods and for all of Lower Manhattan. The LMDC and the City identified a number of categories for each roundtable to discuss, such as Transportation, Neighborhood Issues (including housing, civic amenities, and quality of life issues), and Public Spaces (including cultural institutions, parks, and open space). The agenda also included the additional topic area of tourism for the Chinatown workshop. Agendas for all workshops provided participants with the opportunity to discuss other issues not specific to any of the categories identified above. Experienced facilitators led people through the small group discussion and actively solicited and recorded input from all participants. The volunteer facilitators recruited for each workshop were all individuals who had previously facilitated a number of Imagine NY workshops.

The LMDC and the City solicited the assistance of over 40 community and neighborhood-based organizations in Lower Manhattan to help identify potential workshop participants within each community. Among the individuals and organizations that assisted with identification of participants for more than one workshop area were the LMDC Advisory Councils, Community Board 1, the Downtown Alliance, the Lower Manhattan Residents Coalition, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Councilmember Alan Gerson's office, and Wall Street Rising. In addition to these individuals and organizations, the LMDC and the City reached out to dozens of additional neighborhood-based organizations to solicit participant referrals. The recruitment for the workshops was a very organic process – as additional referrals and points of contact were identified, the LMDC reached out to these individuals and organizations as well. The workshops were also advertised on LowerManhattan.info and included in the events calendar in the Battery Park Broadsheet.

The specific dates, locations, sample agenda, and sample survey of the workshops can be found in Appendices I-III of this report.

BACKGROUND OF LMDC FUNDING INITIATIVES

HUD allocates funding to LMDC through the Partial Action Plan (Plan) process. Each time the LMDC proposes to allocate a portion of its CDBG funding, it must issue a draft Plan that is released for public comment. The LMDC reviews all public comment received, revises the Plan as appropriate, and responds to these comments in the final Plan that is submitted to HUD. HUD must approve the Plan before funding is awarded.

To date, HUD has approved the expenditure of approximately \$1.6 billion of the LMDC's total \$2.8 billion funding allocation through six Partial Action Plans. LMDC's funding to date has focused on assisting businesses and residents directly affected by September 11th, stabilizing the residential and business communities, and short-term initiatives to provide immediate relief to the Lower Manhattan community.

LMDC's Residential Grant Program provides both recovery grants to residents who remained in the area after September 11th and incentive grants to new and existing residents that make a two-year commitment to Lower Manhattan. Through this \$281 million program, the residential community in Lower Manhattan has stabilized and occupancy rates in areas closest to the World Trade Center are higher than what existed prior to September 11, 2001.

LMDC provides funds to the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) for programs to stabilize the business community. In combination with a \$700 million grant from HUD directly to ESDC, LMDC is providing \$425 million in funds for business recovery and to attract and retain both small and large businesses. LMDC is also providing \$33 million in grants to businesses that suffered a disproportionate loss of workforce on September 11th. These grants provide assistance to these firms and serve as an incentive for these businesses to remain in the area. HUD has also approved \$750 million in funds for utility restoration and infrastructure rebuilding. These funds will rebuild a 21st Century telecommunications and utility infrastructure while protecting the impacted businesses and residents of Lower Manhattan from increased utility costs resulting from the September 11th disaster.

LMDC is funding a number of short-term initiatives to provide immediate relief to the business and residential community. These community initiatives include \$3 million for a new High School, approximately \$35 million for projects to improve accessibility in and around Lower Manhattan, approximately \$30 million for neighborhood parks and open spaces, and approximately \$9 million for cultural, communications, and tourism initiatives. Each of these initiatives will enhance the quality of life in Lower Manhattan.

More information on specific projects funded by the LMDC through these Partial Action Plans is discussed later in this report. Detailed versions of all Partial Action Plans with public comments and responses thereto are available on the LMDC web site:

<http://www.renewnyc.com/FundingInitiatives>

LMDC's Residential Grant Program provides recovery grants to residents who remained in the area after September 11th and incentive grants to new and existing residents that make a two-year commitment to Lower Manhattan.

WORKSHOP RESULTS

A total of 369 people participated in the seven workshops, with attendance ranging from 24 to 65 individuals per workshop. During the workshop registration process, participants identified themselves by one or more of the following stakeholder groups: resident of Lower Manhattan (old and new), business owner in Lower Manhattan (old and new), worker in Lower Manhattan, and representative of a civic organization or cultural institution in Lower Manhattan. Based on this self-identification, of the 369 participants, 20% were residents, 17% were business owners, 18% were workers, 18% were representatives of neighborhood civic organizations, and 12% were representatives of cultural institutions. An additional 15% of participants either represented multiple stakeholder categories or their stakeholder category was unidentified. Approximately 30 additional people attended the workshops as observers.

Participants were asked to explore a number of topic areas during each workshop. In addition to being asked what general criteria is important to consider when looking at any potential project, participants were also asked to discuss criteria and identify specific projects in the areas of transportation, neighborhood issues (including housing and civic amenities), and public spaces (including parks, open space, and cultural facilities). The workshop agendas also provided participants with an opportunity to discuss additional issues or areas of concern.

At the conclusion of each workshop, participants were asked to fill out a two-page survey that measured basic participant demographics, their reactions to the LMDC and City initiatives that were presented at the beginning of the workshops, the workshop process, communications outreach, and the importance of specific projects. Of the 369 participants, 141, or 38%, responded to the survey. An overview of the survey responses is included later in this report.



NEIGHBORHOOD-SPECIFIC THEMES

The primary reason for conducting this series of workshops that focused on the individual neighborhoods was to gain an in-depth understanding of each community's priorities and needs with respect to potential projects and funding initiatives. By identifying representative stakeholders, and utilizing trained facilitators to engage the small groups in active discussions, the workshops produced this information.

The primary reason for conducting this series of workshops focused on the individual neighborhoods was to gain a more in-depth understanding into each community's priorities

The following is an overview of the major themes from each workshop – these themes were gathered from both the small group discussions and the written responses included on the surveys for each neighborhood. Comprehensive notes from each workshop can be found in Appendix IV of this report.

FINANCIAL DISTRICT

Among the 24 participants of the Financial District workshop there were six business owners, three long-term residents, three new residents, two employees of the Financial District area, three commuters to Lower Manhattan, five civic group representatives, and two cultural organization representatives. There were also four observers.

•Projects should maintain the uniqueness of the area, make it a destination, and encourage a 24/7 community.

Participants pointed out that this neighborhood is not like others, and stated that projects should be considered in terms of whether or not they are helping to build a vibrant community. A vibrant community would include additional retail, increased hours for restaurants and cafes, evening entertainment, and more schools and libraries. Supporting cultural activities and promoting the area as a destination were also mentioned frequently.

•Support community and cultural programming.

Participants expanded on the comments above by stating that community and cultural programming should be enhanced, including more cultural and entertainment destinations, more festivals, and more free activities, including concerts, dance, theater, etc. There was a sense that these types of activities would spill over into the larger community and help local businesses. Supporting additional space for artists and cultural events was mentioned specifically a number of times.

•Transportation is a priority.

Participants discussed the importance of emphasizing and improving public transportation, creating more opportunities for water transportation, improving east-west connections, and creating direct access to the airport(s).

•Enhance public spaces and develop the waterfront for public use.

Participants called for creating more opportunities for use of the waterfront, and discussed improving and enhancing existing public spaces such as improving lighting, building more playgrounds, increasing benches and seating, and making existing open spaces such as Liberty Park and Battery Park more user-friendly for residents and families.

•Projects should balance between various interest groups and goals.

The need to balance various interests was discussed frequently in this workshop. Specific examples were the need to balance security versus neighborhood access and open space, the needs of tourists versus residents, and the broader theme of balancing the varying needs of the existing community.

BATTERY PARK CITY/WTC SITE AREA

Among the sixty participants of the workshop there were five large business representatives, five small business owners, ten long-term residents, eight new residents, seven employees of downtown businesses who also live in the area, five commuters to Lower Manhattan, ten civic group representatives and ten cultural organization representatives.

• ***Improve and increase transit service and access among neighborhoods.***

Battery Park City/WTC site area participants concurred with the Financial District participants with respect to the importance of improving and enhancing public transportation and neighborhood access. Specific projects that were mentioned were upgrading existing transit lines and stations, creating shuttle links within Lower Manhattan, and improving east-west access to Battery Park City. Direct access to the airport(s) was also mentioned frequently in this workshop. Also, the issue of managing tour buses came up several times at this workshop.

• ***Projects should be environmentally friendly and minimize neighborhood disruption.***

Participants in this workshop emphasized the importance of environmental issues, saying that the highest environmental standards, including green building design, should be implemented, and that the rebuilding should be implemented with an awareness of environmental health concerns. Participants also called for minimizing the disruption to neighborhood residents and commuters during the construction phase.

• ***Projects should provide amenities and infrastructure to keep pace with residential and commercial growth.***

Comments within the workshop expressed the idea that projects and infrastructure needs match residential and commercial growth. Specifically, participants mentioned the need for additional schools, community centers, libraries, and post offices.

• ***Neighborhood projects should promote retail beneficial to the neighborhood.***

Participants mentioned that neighborhood projects should promote retail that is beneficial to the community, by attracting the proper mix of retail that is geared toward residents and workers. They also suggested attracting more high-quality, affordable retail, creating competition in Battery Park City for groceries and eateries, and promoting more 24-hour/weekend retail activity, such as corner coffee shops, bakeries, pharmacies, stores, and restaurants.

• ***West Street was a major issue in Battery Park City.***

Participants were concerned about the possibility of creating a West Street tunnel; specifically they mentioned concerns about the potential cost and necessity of such a project. They also called for more public input and exploration of alternatives. Others supported making West Street more pedestrian friendly, with cafes and seated areas.

• ***Enhance open space.***

A number of participants call for improving open space, including creating athletic fields, creating a downtown portion of Hudson River Park, making waterfronts and water part of the community, and enhancing playgrounds and recreational space throughout Lower Manhattan. They also mentioned improving lighting, safety, and seating.

• ***Improve “Wayfinding” signs.***

Workshop participants called for improvements in way-finding signs, including internal way-finding for the subway system, better signage on Church Street, multi-lingual signs, and more aesthetically pleasing signs.

CITY HALL/SOUTH STREET SEAPORT

Among the forty three attendees of the workshop there were four business owners representatives, five long-term residents, two new residents, ten employees of downtown City Hall/Seaport area, ten commuters to Lower Manhattan, six civic group representatives, six cultural organization representatives. There were also three observers.

•Neighborhood projects should create, connect, and support cultural institutions, and benefit artists and arts organizations.

Workshop representatives felt projects should also benefit the artists and arts organizations within their community.

•Projects should be environmentally friendly and minimize neighborhood disruption.

Participants in this workshop, as with the Battery Park City /WTC site area, emphasized the importance of environmental issues with respect to the rebuilding process.

•Improve and increase transit service and access among neighborhoods.

Participants of this workshop agreed with the first two workshops with respect to the importance of enhancing public transportation and neighborhood access. Specific projects that were mentioned were the Second Avenue subway, creating better east-west connections, creating shuttle links, and connecting Governor's Island to Lower Manhattan. Several participants mentioned reopening Park Row.

•Support 24-Hour Retail & Activity.

Many commented on the desire for a 24-Hour retail and activity option, where quality retail/restaurant services and better diversity and longer hours were incorporated into the neighborhood.

•Preserve and improve parks.

Participants called for creating more green space and natural landscapes, and the importance of the waterfronts, in particular the underutilized East River park space.

•Improve Parking.

Parking was a big issue for participants of the City Hall/South Street Seaport workshop. Participants mentioned restricting government vehicle parking, creating more off-site parking options, providing resident decals, and addressing bus parking issues.

CHINATOWN*

There were a total of 62 participants at the Chinatown workshop, including approximately 12 business owners, six residents, six employees, 12 civic representatives, 12 cultural organization representatives, and 14 that were identified as multiple stakeholder categories (many of the participants of this workshop represented more than one stakeholder group, as they were residents with ties to cultural/civic organizations and some with business interests as well).

In addition to the topic areas discussed at each of the workshops, the issue of tourism was also added to the discussion agenda in the Chinatown workshop. In recognition of various studies that have already been conducted by community groups regarding priorities for the revitalization of Chinatown, namely Asian Americans for Equality's Rebuild Chinatown Initiative (RCI) and a study conducted by the Asian American Federation, specific topics and projects identified by those studies were utilized by the facilitators during the small group discussions at this workshop.

*The major themes identified reflect the feedback received during the facilitated discussions and survey responses. An overview of themes that were reflected via participants' verbal comments at this workshop are discussed in the "Other Major Themes" section of this report, page 24

• ***Projects should be culturally sensitive.***

While some of the other neighborhoods mentioned preserving the character of the area, participants of the Chinatown workshop were particularly interested in projects being culturally sensitive. The cultural integrity of all public spaces should be preserved, and projects should be linguistically and culturally appropriate through promotion of cultural identity.

• ***Support affordable housing.***

Participants in this workshop mentioned the importance of building affordable - and particularly low income - housing for the community.

• ***Support cultural and community facilities (i.e. performance center, community center, cultural district, etc.).***

Although culture was a topic that was widely discussed at many of the workshops, in particular Chinatown representatives expressed ideas related to this theme in a number of specific ways, with the main projects mentioned being to create a cultural center for performance space and a community center. Also consistent with the theme of cultural activities and community space was to support concerts and films in Columbus Park and to provide space for artists and other cultural groups.

• ***Reopen Park Row.***

Reopening Park Row was a major topic of discussion among workshop participants.

• ***Improve Sanitation.***

Issues such as street cleaning, sanitation education and awareness, and garbage removal were major areas of discussion.

• ***Support job training, retention, and creation.***

Participants discussed a number of projects related to these general themes, including creating programs to better prepare workers for redevelopment opportunities, creating a job resources center, retaining manufacturing jobs, and others. Specifically they mentioned supporting retraining and apprenticeship programs, and training and assistance specifically for garment industry owners and workers. Chinatown representatives were also interested in increasing the support for English as a Second Language (ESL) programs.

• ***Support tourism.***

During the discussion about tourism, participants mentioned a number of ways to support and increase tourism in Chinatown, including using the waterfront to create new tourist attractions, creating tourist guides, setting up a tourist information center/kiosk, and better marketing campaigns.

• ***Preserve and improve parks.***

Chinatown participants mentioned a number of open space and parks-related projects, including creating more green space, upgrading Columbus Park, and reclaiming the area north of Confucius Plaza for public use.

LOWER EAST SIDE*

Among the 50 participants who attended the workshop, there were 4 business owners, 7 cultural representatives, 13 civic representatives, 11 residents - some of whom represented tenant associations - 14 employees and or volunteers of downtown businesses and civic organizations, and one unidentified. There were also a number of observers at this workshop.

• ***Projects should benefit low income people and reduce unemployment.***

This was a major theme across various topic areas, specifically with respect to housing for low-income people and job creation for the unemployed. Also discussed was the need for job retention and job training programs.

*The major themes identified reflect the feedback received during the facilitated discussions and survey responses. An overview of themes that were reflected via participants' verbal comments at this workshop are discussed in the "Other Major Themes" section of this report, page 24

- ***Neighborhood projects should provide affordable housing for low-income people.***

Participants pointed to the need to create new affordable housing and to preserve existing low-income housing, and emphasized that affordable housing should benefit low income residents rather than moderate or middle income.

- ***Projects should improve the quality of life for current residents.***

Participants discussed the need to address issues most important to the community. Some discussed the importance of utilizing the knowledge of existing community-based organizations and building on their resources to do so. Also discussed was the need to provide investment for local residents and organizations, not just for visitors.

- ***Transportation should not be emphasized.***

In contrast to some of the other workshops, Lower East Side representatives were vocal in de-emphasizing the importance of transportation projects, specifically larger projects such as airport access. Some felt that there are more important issues to fund, such as housing and job creation. Some participants did feel, however, that projects should encourage the use of mass transit, shuttle buses and links, and that the 2nd Avenue subway project is important to the Lower East Side. Other comments focused on improving existing subway stations in the area.

- ***Create and enhance community facilities.***

In addition to housing being a major topic as part of the neighborhood issues discussion, participants mentioned the importance of community facilities and utilizing existing community groups and organizations to undertake projects. Specific ideas mentioned ranged from creating community recreational facilities, increasing social service programming, and investing in schools, libraries, and senior and youth programs.

- ***Projects should maintain neighborhood identity.***

Lower East Side representatives talked about the importance of maintaining neighborhood identity, specifically promoting local history and neighborhood identity through specific projects, creating a cultural context for the Lower East Side, preserving diversity, and maintaining the “low rise” character and texture of the Lower East Side.

TRIBECA/SOHO/LITTLE ITALY

Among the 65 participants who attended the workshop, there were 20 business owners, 7 cultural representatives, 7 civic group representatives, 11 residents (including representatives of tenant associations), 9 employees from downtown businesses and/or civic organizations, and 11 multiple category/unidentified participants.

- ***Neighborhood projects should maintain neighborhood identity.***

Some people spoke of keeping an appropriate scale and historic character in the neighborhood, and the typology that development should follow. Characteristics included “low-rise, artsy, historic, low-income, mixed-income, independently owned businesses, maritime (water and green), family-friendly.”

- ***Neighborhood projects should promote retail that is beneficial to the neighborhood.***

Representatives desire retail that serves the community. Some felt that space should be made available for small businesses, in order to retain and add flavor to the district. Affordable choices in retail, restaurants, and grocery stores were also mentioned. Some suggested having above ground retail to attract visitors to businesses.

- ***Neighborhood projects should benefit artists and arts organizations.***

The artists and arts organizations within the community and beyond the WTC area are important to the representatives of the Tribeca/SoHo/Little Italy district. Some specific ideas were to convert unused space into temporary galleries, fund existing cultural institutions, and encourage the development of more theaters.

- ***Support environmentally responsible projects.***

Several comments illustrated the importance of practicing environmentally responsible measures in every type of project.

- ***Preserve and protect existing affordable housing and provide additional affordable housing.***

Participants of this workshop focused on preserving affordable housing such as existing Mitchell Lama developments, using Liberty Bonds to create new affordable housing, and allowing residents who already live downtown to have priority on new low and middle income housing that may be built.

- ***Support existing businesses in the community.***

Participants discussed a number of ways to support businesses, including waiving sales tax, giving preferences to downtown businesses and suppliers, assisting organizations that help small businesses, additional grants to small businesses, and advertising campaigns to promote area businesses.

- ***Develop waterfront for public use.***

Representatives were interested in utilizing both the Hudson River and East River waterfronts, and developing piers for public use.

LOWER EAST SIDE/CHINATOWN FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOP*

During the Lower East Side workshop, LMDC and the City agreed to hold a second, open-invitation workshop in that neighborhood, to address concerns some participants expressed about the workshop being “by invitation only.” LMDC also decided to extend the invitation to the second workshop to people in Chinatown. Although there were a few repeat participants, most of the participants in the Lower East Side/Chinatown Follow-Up Workshop were new participants.

Among the total of 65 participants who attended the follow-up workshop, there were 16 residents, 14 civic representatives, 6 business owners, and another 29 participants, many of whom were walk-ins, belonging to various stakeholder groups that were not identified.

Participants in the follow-up workshop raised many of the same issues as did the small groups in the first Chinatown and Lower East Side workshops, including sanitation, the Park Row closure, the desire for projects that benefit low income people, creating affordable housing, and reducing unemployment. In addition to these themes, participants also raised the following issues:

- ***Projects should reduce the number of vacant buildings and lots.***

Development within the neighborhood should occur on vacant lots and should find useful ways to make use of empty spaces in abandoned buildings. Also, landlords should be required to rent vacant spaces within a specific time and remove any tax benefits that occur when the space is kept vacant.

- ***Street and sidewalk maintenance/improvements.***

Participants in the Lower East Side/Chinatown Follow-Up workshop expressed a particular concern about street repair and maintenance, such as fixing broken curbs, sidewalks, and holes and cracks. They also discussed the importance of improving pedestrian amenities by building walkways, widening sidewalks, and creating pedestrian malls by making certain streets such as Mulberry and Mott pedestrian during certain hours.

*The major themes identified reflect the feedback received during the facilitated discussions and survey responses. An overview of themes that were reflected via participants’ verbal comments at this workshop are discussed in the “Other Major Themes” section of this report, page 24

MAJOR THEMES ACROSS WORKSHOPS

This section of the report discusses criteria and projects mentioned frequently, and in 4 or more of the workshops, including comments made during the small group discussions and comments provided on the surveys. The frequency that these topics were mentioned varied by neighborhood. Detailed in this section is additional information on the funding initiatives and planning studies that are already underway as they related to the various topic areas.

GENERAL PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

In the small group discussions, participants were asked first to discuss “general project evaluation criteria.” This topic was explained through several questions: “What criteria are important to consider for any potential project, criteria that are not specific to a certain topic? In deciding which projects to fund, what should LMDC consider? What values does the neighborhood have that LMDC needs to consider in choosing projects?”

THOSE GENERAL PROJECT CRITERIA WERE AS FOLLOWS:

- *Projects should improve the quality of life for current residents of Lower Manhattan;*
- *Projects should maintain neighborhood identities;*
- *Projects should be environmentally friendly;*
- *Projects should create vitality and encourage 24/7 neighborhoods;*
- *Planning and development should build on and support existing resources and initiatives;*
- *Projects should provide connections among neighborhoods and throughout the region;*
- *Projects should be equitable;*
- *Projects should benefit low-income people;*
- *Projects should reduce unemployment;*
- *Projects should improve, not reduce, health;*
- *Projects should be cost-effective;*
- *Projects should promote clean neighborhoods; and*
- *Projects should balance between various interest groups and goals.*

TRANSPORTATION

In regards to the transportation criteria, participants were particularly interested in the following:

- *Projects should benefit pedestrians; and*
- *Projects should promote the use of mass transit.*

Projects mentioned the most were as follows:

- *Improve and increase transit service;*
- *Improve access among neighborhoods;*
- *Improve subway stations, bus stations, and transit hubs;*
- *Create and improve pedestrian amenities;*
- *Create shuttle links;*
- *Improve and beautify streets;*
- *Improve street management and street circulation;*
- *Improve parking facilities;*
- *Reopen Park Row;*
- *Improve access to the airport(s);*
- *Manage tourist buses; and utilize better environmental standards for transportation.*



LMDC-CITY TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

The LMDC and the City of New York, along with partner agencies including the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and the State of New York Department of Transportation (DOT), have been moving forward on a number of large-scale transportation initiatives, which will improve access to and from, and within, Lower Manhattan, and will address many of the issues mentioned above. The federal government has allocated \$4.55 billion of the \$20.6 billion allocated for September 11th recovery for transportation initiatives. These partner agencies collectively identified a number of priority transportation projects, including the WTC permanent PATH terminal, the Fulton Transit Center - which will create a grand point of arrival downtown by linking existing subway lines and creating east-west connections to the PATH station at the WTC site, renovation of the South Ferry subway station, access to regional airports, improvements to West Street, and ferry service enhancement. State DOT is currently exploring possible alternatives for West Street, which would enhance east-west pedestrian access across this highway.

Moving forward on a number of large-scale transportation initiatives, which will improve access to and from, and within, Lower Manhattan,

Earlier this year, the LMDC launched a regional access study to look at potential ways to connect Lower Manhattan to the area's airports and to Long Island, either through existing connections or new solutions. In January 2004, a number of concrete options to direct access will be announced, and in April 2004, one will be selected. In late October, Governor Pataki announced several major initiatives regarding Lower Manhattan revitalization, including several that will connect Lower Manhattan to the rest of the City and the region. A fast ferry from Lower Manhattan to LaGuardia airport will begin by the end of 2004, with a fast ferry to JFK airport beginning the following year. The first fast ferry to and from Westchester County is also underway, and will be launched in 2004. As part of the WTC site planning process, the

LMDC and the PANYNJ are actively exploring alternatives for a bus parking facility in Lower Manhattan to address the important issue of managing tour buses. Several options are being reviewed as part of the environmental review process, and a final solution will be determined by the summer of 2004.

The LMDC and the City are conducting a number of studies to look at traffic and transportation issues within and around Lower Manhattan. The City is conducting a comprehensive street management study for the area south of Canal, which will develop a long-term traffic and street use plan for Lower Manhattan to coordinate the use of streets to satisfy the needs of major redevelopment projects, commercial activity, residential communities, retail, tourism, and other users of Lower Manhattan's streets. The LMDC and the City's Department of Transportation are also jointly conducting a 7-month Chinatown Access and Circulation study, which is exploring a variety of pedestrian and vehicular circulation issues within the area south of Rivington Street to the Brooklyn Bridge, and east of the Bowery, including the impact of the Park Row closure.

The LMDC has also been moving forward with short-term improvements to enhance east-west connections across the WTC site by upgrading the existing Liberty Street bridge and funding the creation of a pedestrian crossing on Vesey Street over West Street. The Vesey Street pedestrian bridge opened in late November 2003, and final project completion will be in the spring of 2004.

NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES

When responding to neighborhood concerns, participants' commented on two areas of interest: (1) Civic and Community Amenities and (2) Housing.

The criteria mentioned in many of the workshops regarding civic and community amenities were as follows:

- *Projects should increase the safety of neighborhoods, without reducing neighborhood quality of life; and*
- *Preserve and support neighborhood character and history.*

Specific projects that were mentioned related to the following:

- *Create and support community centers;*
- *Improve sanitation;*
- *Support community and cultural programming (events, festivals, etc.);*
- *Preserve and improve recreational facilities;*
- *Support programs for children and youth;*
- *Create and support medical facilities and services;*
- *Build more schools and support K-12 education;*
- *Build more libraries; and*
- *Increase security through additional police, lighting, etc.*

With housing being the other area of interest under neighborhood projects, the predominant themes for both criteria and projects related to building new, and preserving existing, affordable housing.

Other projects and criteria related to neighborhoods that did not fall under the two main categories were primarily about marketing, economic development, emergency planning, and support for existing neighborhood organizations. They were as follows:

- *Support job retention and creation;*
- *Support job training and technical assistance for businesses;*
- *Preserve and strengthen small businesses;*
- *Support businesses in the community, especially existing businesses;*
- *Support marketing: promote Lower Manhattan and specific neighborhoods through branding;*
- *Support marketing: guides, maps, and directories;*
- *Support marketing: information centers and kiosks;*
- *Use and support existing neighborhood organizations; and*
- *Create and implement emergency plans.*

LMDC-CITY NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVES

A number of important initiatives are underway to address neighborhood issues with respect to civic and community amenities and housing in Lower Manhattan. Some of these initiatives that relate to the workshop feedback mentioned above - specifically recreational facilities - are discussed in the next section of this report under Public Places.

The LMDC's initial programs were developed to address the immediate and direct impact of the September 11th attacks on the area's residents and businesses. The LMDC Residential Grant Program, first announced in the spring of 2002 and then modified based on public comment, was created to retain and attract residents to Lower Manhattan. Those who resided in one of the eligible zones on September 11th were eligible for a one-time grant. Families with at least one child under the age of 18 living in the residence that made a one-year commitment to the area were eligible for the Family Grant. The zones were created to address the impact of the attacks in terms of proximity to the site itself and factors such as displacement from residences, street and school closures, ongoing construction, etc. A two-year commitment grant is provided to those who live in the eligible zones closest to the WTC site and agree to remain in the area for two years. To date, \$144 million has been paid directly to Lower Manhattan residents under this program. Areas that were experiencing as high as 40-50% vacancy are now showing over 95% occupancy, due to the impact of the program.

Similarly, a variety of grant programs for area businesses were set up almost immediately after the attacks to address the loss of business income due to closures and to attract and retain jobs in Lower Manhattan. These programs were created using Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) and LMDC funding and are administered by ESDC and the Economic Development Corporation. To date, the LMDC has funded \$425 million under these programs, plus an additional \$33 million in grants to those businesses that suffered a disproportionate loss of workforce on September 11th.

The LMDC and the City have launched a number of marketing and communications initiatives aimed at promoting the area to visitors and providing information and awareness within the community of the various rebuilding efforts. LowerManhattan.info, a comprehensive informational campaign for those who live, work, visit, and own businesses downtown, was launched in 2002. It includes a website, newsletter, and other marketing materials aimed at informing stakeholders of the latest rebuilding news, and it also seeks to highlight the area to visitors. The LMDC also launched a large-scale communications outreach campaign to inform the community about the short-term projects that are underway. This campaign includes the distribution of the LMDC newsletter, informational palm cards highlighting various short-term projects, and the placement of informational kiosks. In 2002 the LMDC announced the History and Heritage in Downtown NYC campaign, a comprehensive campaign to market Lower Manhattan as a cultural and historic destination. The campaign focuses on 14 cultural and historic institutions located throughout Lower Manhattan. The LMDC, in conjunction with the September 11th Fund, released a Request for Proposals for a comprehensive marketing and tourism campaign for Chinatown, an area that was hard hit by the decline in tourism as a result of the September 11th attacks and fear of the SARS epidemic. The LMDC and the September 11th Fund expect to announce the winning firm(s) in January 2004. The LMDC also provided funding for

The LMDC and the City have launched a number of marketing and communications initiatives aimed at promoting the area to visitors and providing information and awareness within the community of the various rebuilding efforts

the 2002 River to River festival, consistent with the public's desire to support neighborhood events and festivals that serve the community and draw visitors to the area.

The LMDC has also provided \$750 million in funding for critical utility restoration and infrastructure rebuilding, as mandated by the federal government.

Numerous short-term projects funded by the LMDC and intended to improve the quality of life for those who live, work, and own businesses in Lower Manhattan were announced in April 2003 by Governor Pataki. All of these projects are moving forward expeditiously, including Millennium High School – the first high school specifically for Lower Manhattan students – which opened in September 2003, the reopening of the Greenmarket that was formerly located at the WTC site at Liberty Plaza, and the completion of the Downtown Alliance streetscape program to enhance and beautify Broadway from Bowling Green to City Hall. As announced by Governor Pataki in October, the LMDC will also work with the City of New York to create another new school in Lower Manhattan, which will serve students in Kindergarten through 8th grades.

The LMDC and the City recently released a new vision for the New York Stock Exchange area, which includes security measures that blend into the streetscape, planters that bring life to the financial district and more fitting gateways to this historic district. The first phase of improvements currently is under way and will be completed in the spring of 2004. Streets in poor condition, due to security that served as a barrier to maintenance over the past two years, have now been resurfaced, new asphalt has been laid, and an attractive black wrought iron-style fence has replaced the “bicycle-rack” French barricades that previously choked pedestrian traffic around the perimeter of the NYSE building. The positioning of the new fencing has freed up new lanes of pedestrian flow on Broad Street and Wall Street. Additionally, the slalom course of vehicular obstacles has been removed from Broad Street and jersey barriers have been replaced with planters that inject life into the district.

Also in October, Governor Pataki announced the creation of a Downtown Construction Command Center. The new command center will coordinate all construction activity south of Canal Street. All agencies involved in construction will staff the command center. The center will be managed by a director, who in partnership with the development agencies, will establish protocols for Lower Manhattan construction, coordinate and maintain a construction schedule of activities; and keep residents, businesses, and visitors apprised of scheduled work and progress.

Another major topic of conversation during the Neighborhood Issues section of the workshops was housing. In the summer of 2003, Governor Pataki, Mayor Bloomberg, and HUD Secretary Mel Martinez announced \$50 million in funding for affordable housing for working families that earn 80% - 150% of the area medium income. This funding will subsidize the affordability component of the Liberty Bond program associated with one development, and will create approximately 300 units of moderate- to middle-income housing.

A number of long-term planning studies that seek to identify ways to enhance the various neighborhoods in Lower Manhattan are underway, including the Fulton Street study, aimed at creating river-to-river arts and retail corridor. Another study underway is the Neighborhood Enhancement Action Plan, which explores the area south of Chambers Street and will produce a comprehensive plan for creating additional housing, including ways to maximize the use of Liberty Bonds, and identify additional amenities necessary to sustain the increase in residential uses. These studies will be publicly released, and the LMDC will review the results and consider future funding initiatives based on their outcomes.



PUBLIC SPACES

A variety of themes and associated project ideas resulted from the public spaces section of the workshop. They are as follows:

Open and Public Spaces Criteria:

- *Public space projects should increase the amount of open spaces;*
- *Public space projects should include safety in the design; and*
- *Public space projects should create beauty.*

Open and Green Space Projects

- *Preserve and improve parks;*
- *Develop the waterfronts for public use;*
- *Support public markets;*
- *Use open space on piers for community use; and*
- *Improve lighting.*

Cultural Institutions Projects

- *Create additional space for artists and cultural events*



LMDC—CITY PUBLIC SPACES INITIATIVES

With respect to open space projects, the LMDC, as announced by Governor Pataki last spring, is funding the enhancement and creation of over a dozen parks throughout Lower Manhattan. These projects include enhancements to or the creation of parks at the Wall Street Triangle, Drumgoole Plaza, Al Smith playground, Columbus Park, Sara D. Roosevelt, Washington Market, Laight Street Park, Battery Park Bosque, Red Brick Plaza, Washington/Canal Street Park, Tribeca Park, East River ballfields, Old Slip, and Coenties Slip. Also announced in April 2003 was funding for enhancements to Hudson River Park. In 2002 the LMDC announced funding for the Columbus Park pavilion restoration, providing matching grants to allow the project to move forward. One of the most significant components of the overall open space plan for Lower Manhattan is the World Trade Center site itself. In addition to the 4.7 acres allocated for the memorial to those who were killed, the refined World Trade Center site plan provides significant new public and open space for community use, including the Park of Heroes, the Wedge of Light piazza, and a new park south of Liberty Street. The East River waterfront was an open space project that was discussed in many of the workshops. The City is currently spearheading a study to look at ways to make this important stretch of open space more accessible and usable.

The refined World Trade Center site plan provides significant new public and open space for community use

In addition to the History and Heritage campaign to promote 14 cultural institutions through out Lower Manhattan, the LMDC has initiated a process to identify cultural institutions to locate on World Trade

Center site within the 6.5 acre Memorial District. In June 2002, in conjunction with the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts, the LMDC issued an Invitation to Cultural Institutions (ICI). Over 100 cultural institutions expressed interest in locating on the site. The LMDC recently held a meeting for all Advisory Council members to solicit their thoughts and ideas regarding the ICI process and what types of cultural elements they would like to see on the WTC site.

As part of the recent announcement on Lower Manhattan initiatives, Governor Pataki revealed that the LMDC will contribute the remaining funds necessary for a feasibility study for a Chinatown arts and performance center. This project is being spear-headed by a number of Chinatown-based community and arts organizations, and the funding will allow the groups to move forward with a study, the first step in making this project a reality.

OTHER MAJOR THEMES

Several themes were identified that were not part of the original themes and topic items for discussion. First, the issue of tourism was reflected in many of the aforementioned “neighborhood” and “public spaces” sections. All seven workshops commented on the planning process surrounding the rebuilding of Lower Manhattan. Most frequently mentioned was the desire for the planning and development process to be open and for the community to have access to current information and be involved in the decision-making process.

Although comments regarding the planning process arose in each of the workshops, some of the workshop participants, in particular those in the Chinatown, Lower East Side, and Chinatown/Lower East Side follow-up workshops, were very vocal in not just saying that the community should be involved in the process and have access to information, but in expressing significant concerns about the planning process, the process for making funding decisions, and the way the workshops themselves were structured and implemented.

In Chinatown, for instance, participants expressed concern from the beginning about the structured format of the workshops, and felt that it was very important for them to have the chance to voice their concerns to the entire workshop before participants broke into small groups. During this “public session”, participants voiced concerns about the LMDC acting sooner rather than later on revitalization efforts. Some felt that although there have been many studies and similar workshops that have been undertaken in Chinatown since September 11th by various groups, little has actually been done to revitalize the neighborhood. Some voiced specific concerns about workshop participation and the topics outlined in the discussion agenda, saying that the format was too structured and too exclusive. The issue of the workshops being “invitation only” came up, and participants voiced concerns about everyone in the community being able to contribute to the process.

At the Lower East Side workshop, similar concerns about workshop participation and the discussion agenda were voiced. Some felt that the LMDC and the City spent too much time talking about what has already been done, and too little time hearing from the participants about their needs. The “invitation only” concerns were voiced again in this workshop, and some participants called for a larger venue and meetings that would be open to all who want to participate rather than a select few. Concerns were voiced in the small group reports at the end of the workshop about whether or not the communities’ feedback will actually be heard. Participants in this workshop also mentioned their desire for funding initiatives to expand up to 14th Street, citing that the Lower East Side has been divided by the Houston Street boundary, and that the need for CDBG funds expands up to 14th Street.

Concerns about the “invitation only” process for planning the workshops led to the LMDC and the City deciding to hold a supplemental workshop for these neighborhoods, so that anyone who felt as though they could not participate in the previous workshops would have an opportunity to do so. In the follow-up workshop, during the “public session” in the beginning, participants again voiced concerns about whether or not their opinions will be heard by decision makers, and some called for open reporting of all funding decisions that have been made to date, and open reporting about all future decisions as well. Some expressed frustration that funding decisions have already been made without community input. They called on the LMDC, the City, and Speaker Silver’s office to listen to the needs of the community first and foremost.

OVERVIEW OF SURVEY RESULTS

SURVEY RESPONSE RATES

Of the 369 participants of the workshops, 38% completed surveys. In breaking down the response rates into individual workshops, the rate ranged from 14% to 63%, with the Battery Park City workshop having the highest survey response rate. These surveys provided demographic information about workshop participants, as well as feedback about existing and future LMDC-City initiatives, the workshop itself, and future communication efforts of the LMDC and the City of New York regarding the revitalization of Lower Manhattan. A copy of the sample workshop survey can be found in Appendix III of this report. Appendix V details additional demographic information of the survey respondents.

REPRESENTATION OF VARIOUS INTERESTS

Based on the survey responses, the composition of participants in the workshop varied. All together, 27% of those respondents were business owners, 46% residents, 50% workers, and 39% represented civic organizations (these percentages equal greater than 100% because participants could represent more than one stakeholder category). Tribeca/SoHo/Little Italy had the highest attendance of business owners (47%). It, along with Battery Park City, also had more than one half of the participants being residents of their respective neighborhoods. The Financial District (75%) and City Hall/South Street Seaport (70%) had the highest representation of workers. Tribeca/SoHo/Little Italy, Lower East Side, and the Financial District each had a 50% or greater share of participants who were Civic Representatives. The Lower East Side/Chinatown follow-up workshop, Lower East Side, and Chinatown workshops did not have a high percentage of business owners (11% - 12%). Also, City Hall/South Street Seaport had a low representation of Civic Representatives (13%).

REACTIONS TO LMDC-CITY INITIATIVES FOR LOWER MANHATTAN

At the beginning of each workshop, representatives from LMDC and the Mayor's Office gave a presentation that covered demographic trends in Lower Manhattan, joint LMDC-City initiatives such as long-term planning studies and funding initiatives, and the Mayor's Vision for Lower Manhattan. In general, reactions to the LMDC-City Initiatives for Lower Manhattan were positive. Over 70% of those who responded supported the initiatives overall. Respondents displayed particular support for the public place initiatives (75% support) and the transportation initiatives (64% support). The neighborhood initiatives received 40% support according to the responses. With regards to all three types of initiatives, 15% of the attendees were neutral while a very small percentage (5% or less) did not support the initiatives presented. As a whole, about 50% of participants felt that the initiatives addressed the needs of their respective neighborhoods, while 24% were neutral.

REACTIONS TO WORKSHOP

Respondents reacted positively to the workshops as a whole. 75% thought the workshops were useful. Most were satisfied with the introductory presentation, 64% finding it to be informative. The highlight of the workshop for many respondents was the roundtable discussion. Over 50% of participants strongly agreed that the discussion let them voice their opinions, and 55% strongly agreed that the brainstorming exercise generated good ideas for projects. Over 80% of the respondents attributed their positive experience to facilitators who aided productive discussion. The workshop was a learning experience for many of those who participated. After the workshop, 40% of participants thought they better understood the initiatives for Lower Manhattan and their particular neighborhood after the workshop. Overall, attendees displayed a positive outlook toward the manner in which the workshop was conducted.

DESIRE FOR ONGOING COMMUNICATION

On the Communications front, the best resource for information on Lower Manhattan has been through public hearings and forums, with over 62% of workshop attendees having participated in. The positive response to the workshops is reflected in the fact that over 85% of respondents showed an interest in participating in future workshops. In comparison, the web and newsletters have only reached 50% of the workshop attendee population. However, participants demonstrated high demand for receiving newsletters (84% support) and visiting an informational website (80% support). The attendees equally welcomed other outreach tools such as e-mail and posters. Overall, the participants were eager to learn more about the redevelopment in Lower Manhattan.

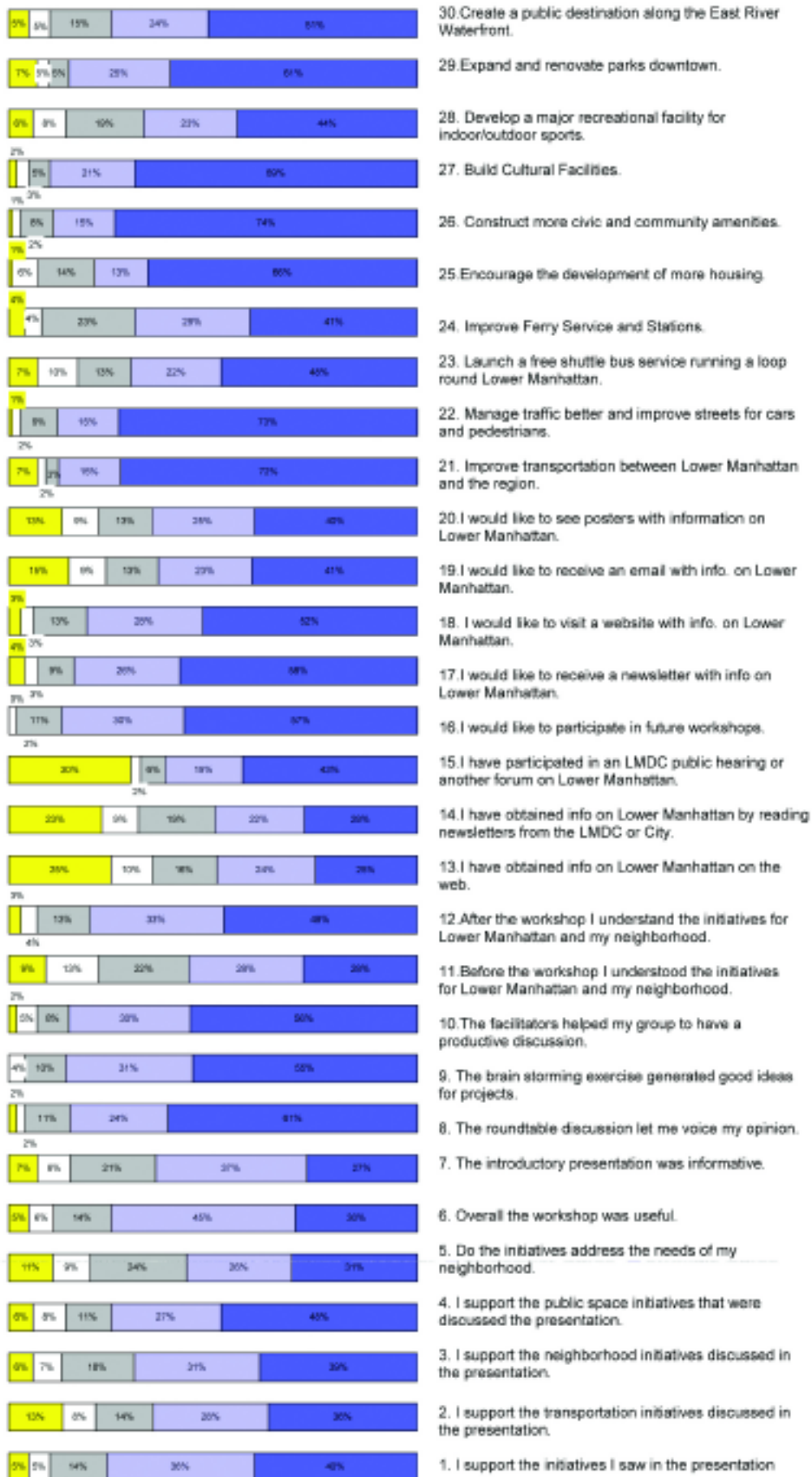
IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS ISSUES

The overall trend in the workshop was a focus on civic and community amenities with 90% of respondents rating this issue to be of importance. 75% of participants stressed the importance of sports, cultural, and recreation facilities, while 70% thought that improving transportation between Lower Manhattan and the region, managing traffic better, and improving streets for cars and pedestrians were pressing issues. 60% of participants thought that the free shuttle bus running the loop around Lower Manhattan was very important and an equal percentage of participants supported the development of new housing and improving ferry service and stations.

The following page shows a chart of the responses to the survey questions. For these questions, participants could choose a response from 1 through 5. For the first series of questions (questions 1-20) being “strongly disagree” and 5 being “strongly agree.” For the second series of questions (questions 21-30), participants could indicate the level of importance they assign to various topics and initiatives, 1 being “totally unimportant” and 5 being “very important.”



■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Somewhat Disagree
 ■ Neither
 ■ Somewhat Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree



NEIGHBORHOOD DIFFERENCES

While most neighborhoods responded similarly to their peers, it's important to note where the various neighborhoods expressed significantly different points of view. These differences reflect the unique character of the districts, and their individual perspectives on the questions.

To the first question on the survey, regarding overall support for the initiatives each neighborhood saw in its presentation, the communities expressed very different opinions. Neighborhoods such as Chinatown and City Hall/South Street Seaport were extremely supportive, with 100% and 89% (respectively) either agreeing totally or somewhat with the initiatives. By contrast, the Lower East Side group had a majority (57%) of participants disagreeing with initiatives on some level. These same trends were apparent in the questions regarding overall support for transportation, neighborhood and public place initiatives. In the Lower East Side for example, only 20% held active support of transportation initiatives, 40% for neighborhood initiatives and 23% for public place initiatives. City Hall/South Street Seaport and Chinatown districts again showed the greatest support for the initiatives, though all remaining neighborhoods had a majority of individuals supporting the initiatives.

Along similar lines to the first four questions, question five, asking respondents whether they agreed that the initiatives were addressing the needs of their communities. Again, Chinatown and City Hall/South Street Seaport were the most pleased, both with more than three-quarters of the respondents supporting the initiatives. Again, the Lower East Side had a less enthusiastic assessment of the initiatives, with 59% disapproval. The Tribeca/Soho/Little Italy group was not as optimistic about the initiatives' impacts in their neighborhood, showing only 33% of the participants agreeing with them.

While most groups agreed that the workshops were useful, there were a few notable exceptions. The Lower East Side showed the least amount of support for the workshops, having only 45% of respondents agree to their usefulness. A few groups, notably the Lower East Side, Tribeca/Soho/Little Italy, and Lower East Side/Chinatown groups felt the introductory presentation was not as informative as it could have been. An interesting result of the workshops was reflected by the Lower East Side/Chinatown and the Tribeca/Soho/Little Italy survey groups with their response to questions 11 and 12. In the questions, gauging how well the respondents felt they understood the initiatives in their neighborhoods both before and after the workshops, these groups showed a decline in the number of people who strongly agreed that they had a good knowledge of the proposals.



Questions 13 to 20, identifying how the different communities would like to communicate with and access information from the LMDC and the City, showed that some mediums of dialogue may have a limited impact on certain neighborhoods. Internet options (both e-mail and websites) had the highest support in the Financial District, while the Lower East Side and Chinatown groups were the least likely to attain information in this way. The Financial District was also very fond of the idea of posters with information on Lower Manhattan, having nearly two-thirds strongly agree that they should be implemented. Newsletters had wide backing, with even the community showing the lowest amount of support, the Lower East Side, having 60% of respondents agreeing that they would like to receive them.

Questions 21 to 30 explored the importance the neighborhoods place on a variety of options to improve Lower Manhattan. The diverse needs and desires of the communities were visible in the levels of support granted to different initiatives. Transportation concerns (Questions 21 and 22) were mixed. While four out of the seven workshop groups had greater than 90% of the participants either agree or strongly agree that transportation needed to be improved, transportation was not a universal concern. Particularly, in the Lower East Side, less than half strongly agreed that improving transportation between Lower Manhattan and the region was a priority, and only 55% felt that street improvement was important. Instead, the Lower East Side saw housing as a major concern, with 94% agreeing on some level that more needed to be developed. To the contrary, the Financial District ranked this as a much lower priority, with only 49% pushing for more housing.

Viewing the responses to all survey questions as a whole, the Financial District and City Hall/South Street Seaport groups were most apt to agree with the survey statements, both with at least 80% of the responses in the affirmative. The Lower East Side, on the other hand, only had 50% of their responses agreeing with the statements on the survey, and 34% in disagreement. The Tribeca/Soho/ Little Italy and Battery Park City districts most closely matched the combined survey results of all of the neighborhoods.

NEXT STEPS

The results of this report will be utilized by both the LMDC and the City of New York. The LMDC Board of Directors and Executive Staff will use the feedback, along with the results of various planning studies currently being conducted, and information that is received on an ongoing basis through various community meetings and funding requests, to identify additional programs and funding initiatives. The LMDC is also exploring additional avenues for public participation regarding future funding initiatives based on the workshop results. Representatives from the Mayor's office will also utilize the feedback received to explore and consider any City-related operational or service issues that could potentially be addressed as a result of this feedback.