



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

CHRISTINE BERTHET
Chair

JESSE BODINE
District Manager

September 10, 2015

Robert Hammond
Founder and Executive Director
Friends of the High Line
The Diller – von Furstenberg Building
820 Washington Street
New York, NY 10014

Re: High Line Community Engagement

Dear Mr. Hammond,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) was presented with details of the High Line's programs focused on engaging with our community. MCB4 was pleasantly surprised to learn of these programs and the positive impact they have especially for the youth in the surrounding NYCHA housing apartments. MCB4 is wholly supportive of these programs and believes they are a model of how other institutions around our city should engage with their local communities.

The High Line has become the second most visited attraction in New York City behind the Metropolitan Museum of Art. 2014 saw 6.2 million people travel the High Line of which an estimated 2 million were New Yorkers. A few years ago after realizing much of the local community were not among those numbers, the High Line conducted a community survey. Local teens were hired to assist in conducting the survey. Born out of the results of these surveys were the Teen Job and Leadership Training Programs. Over 5,000 hours of work at competitive pay, \$10 - \$12 per hour were offered to teens from the neighborhood and 29 teens were hired in 2015. These young employees were exposed to professionals from the High Line and their many partners as well as learned about career opportunities.

In addition to the jobs programs for neighborhood teens, the High Line hosts NYCHA Family Days which has logged over 3,000 participants and Arriba, Latin Dance Parties, attracting 1,200 people. The High Line also continues to engage students throughout the city, having hosted 4,500 students on field trips this year. Another 6,000 students have walked the High Line on self-guided tours. The High Line currently partners with three neighboring schools and three year round after-school programs.

All of these programs demonstrate the High Line's commitment to being a good neighbor and being a positive influence for the youth within our district and throughout the city. MCB4 is thankful for such a resource within our community and we hope the High Line will be able to not only maintain such programming, but expand it for years to come.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet
Chair



Maarten de Kadt Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks &
Environment Committee



Delores Rubin Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks &
Environment Committee