

Greetings CIUS Board Members and friends! This is our fourth edition of the CIUS E-newsletter. This special edition will focus on actions being taken by the infrastructure community since September 11, 2001. Note that many of the groups we refer to are still in formative stages, while others have been superceded; much work is still in the discussion or planning stage. Please continue to send us your updates, comments and we will transmit them through this newsletter.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

LOWER MANHATTAN REDEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Project & Organization: On November 2, Gov Pataki announced the creation of a special “authority,” **The Lower Manhattan Redevelopment Corporation**, to “oversee all aspects of revitalizing and rebuilding Lower Manhattan south of Houston Street.”

This joint State-City entity would have powers similar to other state authorities

Oversight: Will function as a subsidiary of the Empire State Development Corporation governed by a nine-member board of directors, six appointed by the Governor and three appointed by the Mayor. The corporation will have an advisory committee made up of business, labor and community leaders.

Further Information: Empire State Development Corporation. (212)-803-3740

Or Governors office website: (<http://www.state.ny.us>)

Latest Update: This seems most likely to become the actual supervising entity for the reconstruction of Lower Manhattan.

PROPOSED COMMISSION TO OVERSEE RECONSTRUCTION

Project & Organization: On September 16, Mayor Giuliani and City Council Speaker Vallone proposed the creation of a special Commission to Oversee Reconstruction. The commission would have to be passed by the Council, however Council vote to establish commission has been postponed. As envisioned the City Council would amend the City Charter to give the special commission the authority to speed demolition and building permits, and possibly to condemn property for redevelopment. It was proposed that the Mayor and the Council would appoint the commission's members.

Oversight: From the outset there was a question as to final authority, as state legislation would have been required to give the commission any financial power, such as the ability to sell bonds or to spend some of the expected relief money

Further information: Office of the Speaker of the City Council, (212)-788-6865 or the Mayors Office (212)-788-3000

Latest Update: This proposed commission now seems unlikely to be formed, or could be created with less power than originally envisioned and with oversight by the State.

COALITIONS /TASK FORCES

THE CIVIC ALLIANCE

Initiated by: The Regional Plan Association (RPA.)

Project & Organization: The RPA has convened a *Civic Alliance* of more than 75 business, government, community and civic groups in New York and New Jersey, to ensure that the rebuilding of Lower Manhattan meets the highest standards of urban design, addresses regional infrastructure issues and represents the collective wisdom and vision of a cross-section of the city and region's civic, community, environmental and business leaders. *CIUS would especially like to thank the RPA for bringing us up to date on the Civic Alliance*

Further Information: Please call Petra Todorovich (212) -253-2727 x 322 for all related information.

NOTE: There is no web site as of yet. However, the Civic Alliance has released several special documents, and they do have various special sub committees. Please call Petra Todorovich , (212) -253-2727 x 322 for all related information.

THE NEW YORK CITY INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE

Initiated By: The New York City Partnership.

Co-Chairs: Marilyn Taylor and Robert Prieto.

Project & Organization: Formed to help build consensus on any decisions regarding reconstruction, amongst “*private and public sector leaders, existing and newly formed governmental entities as well as concerned civic and community groups.*” The task force hopes to offer pro-bono, the talents of leading design professionals to aid the actual decision makers in identifying all the important questions raised by this issue.

Further Information: Several official sub committees with official meeting times, listed at the Task Force website: <http://www.nyc rebuild.org/>

NOTE: Official liaisons: Tom McMahon (212)-493-7566 and Janette Sadik-Khan (212) 465-5518

REBUILD OUR TOWN DOWNTOWN Coalition (R.Dot)

Initiated By: Liz Abzug (Liz J. Abzug Consultant Services, LJACS) Beverly Willis (Architecture Research Institute, Inc.) Susan Szenasy (Metropolis Magazine)

Project & Organization: The Rebuild Downtown Our Town Coalition, (R.Dot) is comprised of Lower Manhattan residents, businesses, community and business associations, artists, colleges, professionals, designers, public officials and appointees. The coalition meets regularly to develop an imaginative, sustainable design for the rebuilding of Lower Manhattan that creates the possibility of the area becoming a diverse, inclusive 24-hour residential and business community. Integral to this goal is the attraction of the intellectual, entrepreneurial, creative, and technological capabilities that empowers New York City's economy and the richness of its multi-cultural life. The coalition also supports the design of a fitting memorial for the September 11 tragedy.

Further Information: Call Liz J. Abzug Consultant Services (LJACS) at (212)-566-0188 or go to: http://architect.org/lower_manhattan/press.html

NEW PROPOSED TASK FORCE

Initiated By: NYS SPEAKER SHELDON SILVER

Project & Organization: NYS Speaker Sheldon Silver has proposed the creation of a task force on the issue of rebuilding Lower Manhattan.

Further Information: Sheldon Silver's New York City office (212)- 312-1400

NOTE: Article in The Villager - **Silver proposes \$200 million relief package** by Josh Rogers October 31, 2001.

For article go to their website at: <http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?brd=1840>

PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND NGOs

THE MUNICIPAL ART SOCIETY (MAS)

In the MAS Galleries:

- **MISSING.** On view through November 30th. Special viewing and gathering Thursday, November 1 at 6 PM. Exhibit on spontaneous shrines and impromptu memorials to tragedy of September 11, that have surfaced throughout the city.

Programs On Remembering the World Trade Center at the MAS:

- **The Wounded City: Loss, Recovery, and Redefinition at the Heart of Cities-** Discussion with historian, author and former Landmarks Preservation Commissioner Anthony Tung on how cities have approached the process of remembering, recovering and rebuilding in the wake of disaster. Wednesday, **November 7, 6-8 PM**
- **Remembering the Twin Towers** - Author Tony Hiss moderates a discussion with panelists Carol Willis, director of The Skyscraper Museum; John Kriskiewicz, architectural historian; and Anthony Robins, historian and author of [The World Trade Center](#). on how the events of September 11, also erased what was perhaps the most powerful and defining element of Manhattan's urban landscape. **Wednesday, November 14, 6-8 PM**

MAS Place Matters Program: Public invited to share thoughts about the significance of the World Trade Center and related topics on the Place Matters web dialogue board:

(<http://www.placematters.net>) Please email all materials to: placematters@mas.org

Further information: Place Matters Director Laura Hanson at (212)-935-3960.

MAS Planning Center: The MAS Planning Center is still formulating a special conference/forum on "the envisioning process" about rebuilding lower Manhattan. Please contact Planning Center director, Eva Hanhardt (212)-935-3960 for further details.

Further Information for MAS Programs: (212)-935-3960, the Urban Center Galleries, 457 Madison Avenue (between 50th & 51st Streets).

THE CITIZENS UNION

The oldest “good-government group” in NYC, with strong planning component.

Project & Organization:

- Will actively brief city council members on issues (first briefing: November 20, 2001)
- Preparing to serve as a clearinghouse on shaping government entities that will supervise the rebuilding of Lower Manhattan.

Further Information: (212)-227-0342 or go to their "Gotham Gazette" Website at: <http://www.gothamgazette.com>. See "Rebuild NYC" for their response to the issue.

THE CENTER FOR AN URBAN FUTURE

(In conjunction with the **NEW SCHOOL'S MILANO GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND URBAN POLICY**)

Project & Organization: A series of forums, reports and discussions addressing major policy issues facing New York in the wake of September 11. Second in series of six panels, **Retain, Rebuild and Revitalize: Planning Strategies for Lower Manhattan and New York's Economy** will take place November 29th, 2001 from 10 a.m. – Noon at the Swayduck Auditorium, New School University. E-mail RSVP to neil@nycfuture.org or call (212)-479-3344 x 404

Transcripts of the first panel in series, **Economic Development After The World Trade Center Disaster: Next Steps for New York's Economy** that took place October 18, are now on the Center for an Urban Future website:

<http://www.nycfuture.org/forums/index.htm>

Further Information: Contact Center for an Urban Future at (212)-479-3353 or visit their website at: <http://www.nycfuture.org>

PLANNERS NETWORK

(In conjunction with Hunter, Pratt, and Queens Colleges, and the Municipal Arts Society)

Project & Organization: Held forum on evening of Friday, November 2, at Hunter College Social Work Auditorium, entitled, **WHO WILL PLAN? WHAT WILL IT BE? ECONOMICS AND POLITICS OF PLANNING IN THE WAKE OF 9/11**

Further Information: Visit website: <http://www.plannersnetwork.org/index.html>

Or email Planners Network at pn@plannersnetwork.org

UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

As of this writing the following programs are planned. We will continue to provide updates in future editions of this newsletter.

INITIATIVES VIA THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (CUNY) SYSTEM

- **CUNY Urban Consortium**, coordinated by the Newman Real Estate Institute at Baruch College, includes centers, institutes, scholars, academic programs and departments from throughout the CUNY system. The Consortium is a new effort to use the diverse talents within the CUNY system to address major planning and urban issues in the NYC region.

Project & Organization: On Friday, January 11, 2002, the Consortium will host an all day conference on the issue of rebuilding Lower Manhattan. Presentations are by CUNY members and key officials who will lead the rebuilding process.

For further information: contact the coordinator at (212)-802-5945.

- **CUNY Institute for Urban Systems (CIUS).** This new institute focuses on issues and problems related to "infrastructure." Its themes include; integration of new technologies, the roles of institutions and the growing problems of revenue and finance.

Project & Organization: A brief, **Approaches to redevelopment, WTC, lower NYC and the Region**, written by CIUS Director Robert E. Paaswell, emphasizes applying strategic planning to rebuilding the infrastructure of Lower Manhattan. This document is meant to provoke a response and create an ongoing open dialogue about the strategic planning process related to rebuilding Lower Manhattan. This dialogue will be posted on the City College website.

Conference on rebuilding Lower Manhattan: CIUS will host it's own special conference on issues related to rebuilding Lower Manhattan, some time after the Urban Consortium conference Date to be announced

Further Information: Laurence Frommer, Assistant Director, CUNY Institute for Urban Systems, The City College of New York, Shepard Hall-350, 138th Street and Convent Avenue, New York, NY. Phone 10031 (212)-650-5896; fx (212) 659 8962; frommercius@ccny.cuny.edu

- **John Jay College of Criminal Justice.**

Project & Organization: **Urban Hazards Forum**, January 22-24, 2002, John Jay College (CUNY), New York City Plenary session, and three concurrent working sessions: Catastrophic events; Terrorism; Mitigation. This meeting is being sponsored by FEMA in a grant to Professor Charles Jennings at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

To present at the Urban Hazards meeting, send abstracts to Professor Victor Goldsmith (vfg@hunter.cuny.edu)

For more information: <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/urbanhazardsforum>

PRATT INSTITUTE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT (PICCED)

Project & Organization: For a comprehensive outline and response to the issue of rebuilding lower Manhattan, by PICCED director, Ron Schiffman go to <http://www.picced.org/index2.htm>, select "Statement of Principles for New York's Recovery Following 9/11/01"

Further Information: (718)-636-3486

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE)

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, NEW YORK CHAPTER

Initiated by: Under the initial sponsorship of the AIA New York Chapter

Project & Organization: Immediately following the September 11th terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, sixteen design and planning organizations formed a coalition, now called **New York New Visions**, to develop design and planning recommendations that will inform the large-scale economic and real estate development decisions that will be made in the coming months. This coalition has several sub-committees and intends to produce recommendations that will ultimately be presented to Governor Pataki, Mayor Bloomberg, City and State agencies, and a wide array of civic and business groups.

Further Information: (212)-683-0023 or visit their website at: <http://www.aiany.org> and select "New York New Visions"

NOTE: We would like to thank the Regional Plan Association (RPA) for bringing us up to date on this particular endeavor.

THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION (APA), NATIONAL

Project & Organization: online 24 hour moderated discussion for the public about "planning after September 11."

Further information: APA (National) <http://www.planning.org/> select "Discussion Forum: Planning After September 11"

APA , New York Metro Chapter

Project & Organization: Annual Planning Conference - "WTC and Beyond - Challenges Facing Planners" Thursday, December 6, 2001, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 P.M, Baruch College Conference Center. 151 East 25th Street (btw Lexington and Third)

Further information: go to <http://www.planning.org>, or call the APA Metro Chapter office at (212)-228-7875.

MUSEUM EXHIBETS

THE SKY SCRAPER MUSEUM

Upcoming Events: WTC: THE WORLD TRADE CENTER. The Skyscraper Museum under director, Carol Willis is currently preparing an exhibition on the history of the World Trade Center, to be mounted by the Museum *at the New York Historical Society in February 2002*. The Museum gallery is currently closed.

Further Information: Call (212)-968-1961 for information on upcoming lectures, exhibitions, walking tours, and membership. Visit website at: <http://www.skyscraper.org/>

You can contribute to the substantial task before us by pointing out relevant information from your organizations and work. We hope to hear from you!

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◆ *CIUS E-Newsletter, R Paaswell, Director, L. Frommer, Editor* ◆

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