**APPENDIX G: Comments on DEIS** 

**APPENDIX G-1:** Copies of Comments and DEIS Hearing Transcript

# CB7/Manhattan Comments and Recommendations AMNH's Draft Environment Impact Statement June 15, 2017

#### Land Use, Zoning and Public Policy:

- 1. Maps and diagrams are needed that show the existing footprint in relation to the new addition.
- Add diagrams to document and demonstrate where the existing buildings will be impacted by one or more of the following actions: building removal, changing internal circulation by relocating stairs and internal access at each floor adjacent to the new building, the blocking or changing existing view corridor within the complex.
- 3. Indicate all existing entrances to the museum: public, staff and delivery; as well as the proposed new entrances/exits or any changes including closure to existing entrances.
- 4. Explain how the goal "to provide more efficient use of space" will fulfill the museum's goals. Identify any redundancies and how the museum will fund the increased operating costs.
- 5. Summarize the description of the use program for the new graduate level education center. What resources will be involved?
- 6. Regarding Section F: Future Without the Proposed Project needs to demonstrate the inability to contain the proposed uses within the existing building. Chart the existing space uses and those new spaces to be provided to demonstrate that the complex cannot be modified or improved internally. Will there be adaptive reuse projects and building additions to existing and new cultural institutions within the study area.
- 7. Regarding Section F: Probable Impact of the Proposed Project: please explain in greater detail the new space and how they are different from existing spaces
- 8. What is the square footage of the building being removed and the additional open space to be incorporated into the new building to demonstrate the efficient use of land for this project.

- 9. Please provide an assessment of the impact of the waste of the building materials and energy involved in the demolition of the buildings.
- 10. What are the adverse impacts to the existing facility and stresses on neighborhood services and infrastructure during construction and after the Gilder Center is open.

#### **Transportation:**

- 1. Four intersections are likely to be impacted by the opening of the Gilder Center: 81st St/CPW, 81st St/Columbus Avenue. 77th St/CPW, and 77th St/Columbus Avenue. Expand the area impacted by the Museum's expansion north to 83rd Street from 82nd, because the intersection at 81 ST/CPW will impact vehicles wishing to access 81st Street from either Central Park West of the Central Park Transverse Road.
- 2. Pay careful attention to the intersection of 81st and Columbus due to conflicts between private vehicles, buses, pedestrians and cyclists. We need to know the new potential conflicts identified by AKRF, and in which directions the principle conflicts are likely to occur.
- 3. Include an analysis of bike ridership to the Museum, including the use of Citi Bikes. What is the current number of bike parking spaces? Explain the mitigation plan to prevent conflicts between bike riders traveling south in the Columbus Avenue Bike Lane and the pedestrians exiting taxis and private vehicles which will be allowed to use the dedicated area adjacent to the bike lane at 79th and Columbus.
- 4. Include a study of pedestrian and vehicular traffic on Sundays especially during the times of the Green Market and increased visits to the Museum.

#### **During Construction:**

- Maintain the Columbus Avenue bike lane/pedestrian access while the East side of Columbus Avenue at 79th Street is impacted by construction equipment and deliveries to the site. There needs to be clear signage and proper lighting during evening hours. In addition sidewalk access for pedestrians must also be maintained.
- 2. Pay special attention to keeping the southern most lane of 81st Street clear for both school buses and the M79 Select Bus. Continue the Museum's policy to alert school groups about transit access to the Museum especially as transit usage for visitors continues to grow.
- 3. Dedicate sufficient traffic enforcement personnel to ensure the smooth flow of vehicles and pedestrians around the perimeter of the Museum; as well as adjacent streets that are impacted. Particular attention needs to be paid to the four intersections 81 ST/CPW, 81 St/Columbus, 77 St/CPW, 77 St/Columbus.

- 4. Create a school bus plan to accommodate trips to/from the Museum, with buses not overwhelming the area because there will be additional traffic impacts due to deliveries and lack of parking. Pay close attention to West 81st and West 77th Streets which will bear the brunt of buses coming to/from the Museum. On-site personnel need to be present at all times, especially during peak hours when school groups visit the Museum.
- 5. Monitor ways to improve pedestrian safety. Have personnel and appropriate signage to assist pedestrians crossing busy intersections
- 6. Develop a well thought out plan for trucks including where they originate, their route to and from the site, queuing and plans to stage them.

#### Construction

#### **Communications with the Community:**

- 1. Expand the scope of communication to include the following: A construction working group (similar to the park working group) convened by the Museum in consultation with Community Board 7, the Council Member and the Manhattan Borough President that will meet monthly to review construction and community concerns. Each local stakeholder will appoint one person to the group. Relevant City agencies will be included.
- 2. Bi-weekly look-aheads, including stages of work and anticipated noise impacts, which will be distributed by email and posted to the museum website.
- 3. Create a 24/7 hotline staffed by the Museum. 311 is not appropriate for a project of this scale.

#### **Community Safety:**

- Expand the MPT area and the area where flaggers will be deployed to included Columbus Avenue 2 blocks to the north and south of the site and 81st Street between CPW and Columbus. Implement some type of walkie-talkie communication system.
- 2. Implement a plan to reduce double parking on Columbus Avenue from 77th to 73rd Streets. Increase enforcement and add temporary daytime loading zones.
- 3. Prepare plans for any times Columbus Avenue will be shut down to traffic.

#### **Other Construction Issues:**

- 1. Promote and incentivize workers to use mass transit.
- 2. Instruct construction workers on where to park.
- 3. Where will construction workers gather before the 7AM start.
- 4. Ensure that there are enough on-site garbage containers for construction workers.

Date: June 26, 2017 before 5PM

To: Owen Wells

Director Environmental Review NYC Parks and Recreation The Arsenal, Central Park 830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401

NYC, NY 10065

From: Claudia DiSalvo,

President

Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park

150 W.79<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 6E

NYC, NY 10024

Re: Commentary: This document is submitted to you in *Opposition* 

to the building of the Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education and Innovation. Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park is the only organization whose mission is to protect every square inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park. We stand between the Museum's ill-conceived plan and the health and safety of the Upper West Side, the five boroughs

and beyond.

We are looking to the NYC Parks Department to serve our advocacy to stand and protect New York City residents from the Museum's proposal to destroy one of the most essential eco systems that is disappearing under the guise of noble projects. The risks for this project far outweigh any benefit that can be achieved by a thoughtful, well-designed building that includes the input of the community. We are not attempting to kill the project. We support the project to be constructed within its own footprint as long as all City and State EPA regulations, guidelines and other legal requirements are met. As I have shared in past meetings, Jean Gang, architect of the project, when asked if all of AMNH's objectives could be met by building within their footprint, she replied, "Yes".

#### **NYC Parks Department Commitment**

The Parks Department *Mission* is to plan resilient and sustainable parks, public spaces and recreational amenities, build a park system for present and future generations, and care for parks and public spaces. *The Museum expansion is in complete violation of your mission*. Your *Vision* is to create and sustain thriving parks, public spaces for New Yorkers. *Here again, the AMNH plan violates your Vision*. The AMNH is in violation of their Sustainability Guiding Principles. The AMNH Plan is designed to steal and destroy our public parkland...our treasured public asset and do it under the cover of NYC officials and agencies.

As the Parks Department views its Vision and Mission it must consider that New York City's population is projected to explode to 9.5 million residents within a few short years. The building of our city's resources must be consistent with the projections and all that means to build healthy and safe communities. We cannot afford to loose green space, we must nurture and protect and celebrate each and every park. Considering that 6 ½ million visitors annually will be visiting and testing every resource (Parks, Transportation, Traffic, Trash etc.) we have in this small sliver of priceless land, and the risks must weigh heavily within your equation for approval or denial. And consider in your decision that NYC has a first class school system that educates NYC 1.1 million students with over 60,000 teachers who teach all subject areas including Science...We have been turning out scientists, engineers and mathematicians for as long as the Museum has been in esistence.

The following is an excerpt in support of the above comments from Landmark West! Testimony of Kate Wood before the Landmarks Preservation Commission, American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), Proposal for Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation, October 11, 2016.

- "Though not technically part of the Individual Landmark Site, Theodore Roosevelt Park holds is own as a public asset worthy of preservation:
- •It is located within the UPW/Central Park West Historic District and the 1990 NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission designation report highlights the Park as "...one of the few parks allocated by the 1811 Commissioner's Plan.
- •"...The advocacy organization New Yorkers for Parks named Theodore Roosevelt Park among the best parks under 5 acres.
- •The very presence of a park, surround the Museum is a significant part of the essential human experience of the Individual Landmark and the Historic District."
- •The Museum points to the 1874-1877 Master Plan as a "guide". However, the fact that this 140-year-old Plan is not followed is a sign that it is irrelevant to the institution's vision for growth. No civic institution especially a steward of a significant Landmark on public parkland has the unrestricted right to develop its facilities, no matter how noble the purpose. Any plan that does not set such limits is fundamentally inappropriate and should (MUST BE my note) disapproved."

Over the past few years, I have become a student in the 140+ year-old history of the Museum. The 1876 statute is being offered and advertised and marketed to sway public opinion. Their rationale is bogus. Yes, they are and will continue to do Science, as they always have, in spite of what is

I have read every Annual Report since the early 1850's. I invite you to do the same. Over the years, the Parks Department working in conjunction with the city and state of New York 'purse strings' was the lead agency for every project. This financing made it possible for your office to create and complete all of the arrangements from square one in the meeting rooms and on the drawing board to completion. This work-included oversight... Your agency prepared the land in

Manhattan Square to make way for the building, designing and construction of a a sewer system, a power plant, construction all of the buildings on site, to include the building of the exhibition racks. The City paid for and provided all services for maintenance and security since its inception. The City of New York has bailed the Museum out of financial ruin over all these years.

The historical records of the Board of Trustees Annual Report have revealed each year in their by-laws that there was a 60-day clause that stated, upon receipt of a notification letter to the Mayor of New York to vacate the premises, the Museum could collect all their collections, and leave the building empty. New York City would not have any claim to their collections if this were completed within the specified period. Yes, there were leases and contracts. Access to these documents can be found in the Museum's own Research Library.

#### **Draft EIS**

The DEIS is flawed. An independent study has been conducted. and it will be soon released soon. At this time, we need to consider the ramifications of the AMNH's Draft EIS completed by AKRF. AKRF has been named and engaged in a series of lawsuit has led again to the community having more questions about Trust. The Museum should have been required to hire an independent contractor. What are the requirements and standards from our guidelines that would govern a study that the community could put their trust?

- •What is AKRF's justification for considering certain technical areas of the Draft EIS. The Draft considered only 14 out of the 19 technical areas identified in the CEQR Manual. AKRF's failure to provide sufficient information is depriving the community and others to participate in this review process.
- •The DEIS is incomplete in so many sections and must be supplemented. Again, failure for AKRF to provide sufficient information relating to hazardous materials, transportation,

and construction sections is depriving the community and others to participate in this review process.

**Section 2:** Review of the hazardous materials, transportation and construction sections.

- •The hazardous materials section does not present sufficient information to fully understand the scope of the Phase 11 ESA. Information submitted gives *cause for concern* to residents in the area of the proposed project area.
- •Transportation section relies on a number of underlying assumptions that are poorly justified. When will we receive a document based on true numbers? The gridlock in vehicular and pedestrian traffic will be significantly increased and dangerous. The amount of school children who walk Columbus Avenue will be at risk as they negotiate increased traffic, staging of construction trucks and/or, 100+ school busses each day that will be idling on the streets keeping drivers cool on warm days and warm on winter days, food vendor trucks that will add to the traffic congestion and garbage, as well as the personal vehicles that drive several hundred construction workers into the area. They will cut into the limited parking of residents. The list of dangerous outcomes such as the staging of hundreds of huge trucks and machinery required to construct the building, not to mention the trailer trucks that will be delivering every nail to glass and, cement throughout each and every day.
- •The construction section that supports the proposed expansion will release materials that could be harmful to resident's health and the health of passerby consider dog walkers who daily run their dogs in the Park. What will be the impact of noise, construction digging and pounding... on the animals in the Dog Run? One only has to read the frightening stories of dogs traumatized and damaged during July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks celebrations. This section does not reassure residents that their health will be protected. Can you?

- •Sunday's GrowNYC Greenmarket would have to be relocated for at least 3 years. Small business will be impacted and closed. Stores are paying rents that are barely sustainable. Refer to the Second Avenue construction that closed family businesses that were institutions on the upper-eastside. Many of our stores will not be able to sustain the loss of customers who will avoid the staging areas. Mark my words that there will be long term effects to businesses along Columbus as well as Amsterdam Avenues not to mention that there will be scarce transportation resources. And what of Macy's Thanksgiving Parade? No mention.
- •We have great concerns in Section B 'Existing Conditions' regarding the 1,080-gallon diesel fuel oil AST located in Section 16, ASTs and one UST are registered in the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation database, with two of three registered ASTs located with the project site. Status of containment not provided. The location of the UST and the third AST must be identified.
- •Update the status of the Museum as a generator of hazardous wastes must be updated.
- •We need to know more about the arsenic preserved hides stored in Section 1 and Section 7A defined in project site. Was arsenic preservation done on site? Where relative to the project site and how were new, as well as spent arsenic-containing preservation solutions handled as well as disposed of?
- •Where are the locations of in-service and closed-in place storage tanks?
- •Was an asbestos management plan provided for review?
- •What documentation was submitted to confirm or dispute testing the presence of lead paint?
- •There is so much missing in this section. The Hazardous Materials Section does not identify the sampling methodology used for the collection of ground water? Where is this

information? Where are the final locations for the chemical storage sheds currently located in the Exterior Yard? Chlorinated volatile organic compounds were identified as being present at concentrations in excess of the applicable standards in both ground water and gas. What liner are they considering for installation as part of the foundation construction? Note – this must be determined ASAP and provided for a complete review.

There is significant information missing from the Subsurface (Phase 11) Investigation that relate to Borings, monitoring wells, and soil gas sampling as they relate to the project site require more information that can be reviewed immediately.

#### Transportation Section, Draft EIS

•Again, it does not include sufficient information to fully evaluate the findings. Vehicular and pedestrian traffic assessments are based on the increased Museum attendance and assumed use of the proposed museum entrance on the western side of the AMNH. The draft does not present signal timings. Where are they and on what standard are they based on? How are they calculated? Calculations for vehicle use, sidewalk use, and pedestrian crossings at intersections are not submitted. What are they? We need to have this information before the Final EIS.

The report raises more questions than answers. How does the Museum justify their estimate of 630,000 additional visitors? There is nothing relevant to support the estimate based on increased attendance following capital improvements in other Museums and other attractions. Again, there are no relevant details to justify the numbers. The estimated increase in attendance is of critical importance in predicting the effect of the expansion on the already **STRESSED** 

**TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE**. This is a fantasy. The Museum again has demonstrated its lack of responsibility and concern for the Community. Another grave concern... the Draft EIS assumes a minimal 2% increase in usage for the W.79<sup>th</sup> St. subway. The stop is proximal to the

proposed western entrance to the AMNH but according to the Draft EIS it would become a primary entrance. There is absolutely no attempt to justify or explain their numbers of this increase of which at best leaves us feeling skeptical.

#### Construction

The character of the neighborhood will be changed forever with this construction. A 3-5 year construction time-line will decrease the enjoyment of our parkland and resources for residents. TR Park is a critical aspect of our neighborhood...BUT nowhere does the Draft EIS discuss the impact or implications to the health and safety of our residents and passerby. For example, residents can inhale lead dust by spending time in the proximity to surfaces where lead based paint is deteriorating, and during activities such as the prosed construction work that disturbs painted surfaces on buildings.

The EPA states and warns that lead exposure "affects the nervous system and can cause a wide range of health effects from behavioral to problems with learning disabilities, autism, to seizures and death! "Lead from paint is the most common cause of lead poisoning. The ramifications from lead are staggering. They range from damage to the brain and nervous system to coma and death.

Among other considerations the Draft does not contain sufficient information to assess the calculations and underlying calculations of such technical areas as Hazardous materials and construction. The construction will mobilize materials that are highly dangerous to human and animal health. The materials discussed include asbestos and lead. The construction section indicates that the work would be completed as/work plans that take containment into account. Where are the details of these plans? And they must be provided prior to the Final EIS? Will they?

#### Conclusion:

There has been no real discussion about emergency vehicles such as police, fire, ambulance and homeland security. The closing of lanes to provide for bike transit to two lanes has already impacted our traffic creating dangerous situations. The number of delivery trucks has exploded as more new buildings have come on the grid, bringing with it more stores and offices. CitiBike has interrupted the flow of traffic as they have taken valuable space on the streets and avenues that reduce the number of lanes on certain streets and avenues. And what about Homeland Security issues as New York City faces threats every minute and hour of every day? Where are the complete plans from Fire, Police, Hospitals, and Homeland Security? We see the impact of our emergency vehicles stuck in gridlock daily.

The Draft EIS is deficient. Mitigation plans incomplete using standards that are not existent or missing. When will this be complete? So the community has funded this project \$140 Million tax payer dollars without a public hearing for this expansion. Additionally if this Plan is approved we will have lost Theodore Roosevelt Park and its contents. It will destroy our migratory bird movement and small animals and birds. It will unleash an army of rats and rodents. And garbage will disrupt the community. And the Museum refuses to answer whether or not that the Gilder expansion will be the last phase of construction or will an application for the remaining space be on the horizon?

And as I shared in October, if this Plan is approved and we live long enough, we will visit the Theodore Roosevelt Park in an air-conditioned diorama in the Museum. The cat is out of the bag. The Museum's true colors have been unfurled with this ill-planned project. This is simply a case where the Museum is more interested in building a new, grand entrance that will serve as event space for venues that will generate \$25+ million dollars each year in the building of this vanity project. And again if passed, the gift of taxpayer monies will continue to be the gift that keeps on giving into perpetuity.

We are looking to the Department to put a STOP to this madness. As an educator, I give the Draft an F. It is full of

holes. It is an embarrassment to the ivory towers of such a globally celebrated institution. We are asking you to commit to meeting your goals and objectives of your Vision Statement and Mission Statement. If the commitment is met, we know that the Proposal will go back to the drawing board and we will do whatever we can do to make this project a reality within the footprint of the Museum. That is a promise.

Let me conclude with a NY 1 report that was shared about a month ago. The department was celebrating a 123-year old tree living in Queens. A NY1 journalist interviewed a Parks Department representative. He concluded the interview by inviting all New Yorkers to visit and celebrate the tree. He talked about the importance of protecting that and every tree in the city. Trees have been described as the 'lungs of the earth'! Seven legendary trees will face the chain saw. A canopy that is second to none in this country will be destroyed. How and when does the Parks Department advocate for these trees? I recently spoke to a woman who visited our information table outside the Museum on Columbus Avenue while collecting petitions whose name I will keep nameless. She works for the Museum but lives in the uptown area of Inwood. She informed me that if any developer or ...wanted to remove or destroy one of their trees, they would unleash a force that they would set the City upside down. Will you?



#### Memorandum

June 15, 2016

	File	Ref. No.:	11137509
Ву:	G. K. C. Geoffrey Clark/ps/1 (GHD)	Tel:	732-225-0308
CC:	File		
Subject:	Review of Draft EIS, Proposed Expansion of American	Museum of N	atural History

GHD completed an expert review of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by AKRF, Inc. and dated May 18, 2017. The Draft EIS is in support of the proposed expansion of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH). GHD reviewed the Draft EIS and underlying assumptions for consistency with the New York City Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination (OEC) document entitled *City Environmental Quality Review Technical Manual* (CEQR Manual), which is dated March 2014 with revisions on April 27, 2016.

The proposed with-action condition is AMNH expansion into the adjacent Theodore Roosevelt Park. The expansion would be completed to house the Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation (Gilder Center). A five-story, 203,000-square foot addition to the existing AMNH structure is proposed. The expansion into Theodore Roosevelt Park (Park) would result in an 11,600-square foot (0.25-acre) alteration to the Park. Among the proposed activities is the removal of 10 mature trees from the Park. The proposed expansion includes construction of an additional "primary entrance" on the western side of the AMNH; upon construction, the majority of AMNH patrons would enter through either the current main entrance on the eastern side of the AMNH or would cut through the Park to enter on the west side of the building.

GHD's expert review focused on the following elements of the Draft EIS and supporting documents:

- Justification for not considering certain technical areas in the Draft EIS The Draft EIS considered only 14 of 19 technical areas that are identified in the CEQR Manual. GHD reviewed the rationale for not addressing the remaining technical areas in the Draft EIS. Section 1 describes GHD's findings.
- GHD reviewed the hazardous materials, transportation, and construction sections of the Draft EIS in detail. Section 2 documents the findings, questions that GHD believes should be addressed in the final EIS, and information that should be made available to the public in the final EIS.

As discussed below, in the absence of prompt supplementation of the Draft EIS, the City, environmentalists and members of the local community most directly affected by the proposed Project would be unable to participate in the review process, depriving those responsible for approving or disapproving the proposed expansion the opportunity to consider all of the impacts associated with it. It is, therefore, imperative for the DEIS to be supplemented as soon as possible and certainly before any Final EIS is prepared.





#### Technical Areas not Addressed in the Draft EIS

Approximately 25% (5 of 19) of the 19 technical analysis areas were not addressed in the Draft EIS. As such, the Draft EIS, as currently constituted, is insufficient to assess the environmental impact of the proposed AMNH expansion on socioeconomic conditions. Likely effects on socioeconomic conditions include decreased use of the Park during and after construction and reduced business at local shopfronts in the vicinity of the proposed construction.

Theodore Roosevelt Park is a community park and is among the defining characteristics of the neighborhood to the west of the AMNH. Residents know the park as a city resource that is well-shaded and restorative. Although Central Park is adjacent to the AMNH's east side, it is much more a tourist destination than a part of this neighborhood. The reduction of any Park space is therefore an encroachment on the defining characteristics of the Upper West Side neighborhood in the vicinity of the proposed project area.

Also, it should be noted as part of the review of the Draft EIS, that the GrowNYC Greenmarket, which is a weekly farmer's market currently operating every Sunday on Columbus Avenue from 77<sup>th</sup> Street to 81<sup>st</sup> Street would need to be re-located. Such relocation would likely trigger additional, rippling environmental impacts, including primary and secondary displacement, as well as other economic consequences. The portion of Columbus Avenue where the Greenmarket currently operates would be closed to markets, vendors, and/or street fairs for the 3-year project duration.

Additionally, long-term effects are likely to businesses along Columbus Avenue and Amsterdam Avenue. Even without the proposed AMNH expansion, museum attendance is anticipated to increase. However, with museum expansion, 630,000 additional visitors are anticipated to the museum each year. Among the results of this expansion will be increased transportation demands; additional pedestrians will flood the neighborhood and already scarce parking resources will be further taxed. In many neighborhoods, this increase in visitors would increase business, but the crowds will change the local neighborhood characteristics. One resident stated on StreetAdvisor.com, "Columbus and Amsterdam Avenue have many boutiques, restaurants, and bars." Another comment was "The Upper West Side of Manhattan is a beautiful neighborhood, filled with several smaller neighborhoods, and is renown[ed] as a trendy yet elegant section of the island of Manhattan. Complete with great dining, entertainment, shopping, and housing options, this fabulous neighborhood is both a wonderful place to visit and a wonderful place to live."

New York has recognized the eclectic stores and shopfronts in neighborhood to the west of the proposed project area. Columbus Avenue between 72<sup>nd</sup> and 87<sup>th</sup> Streets is zoned as a "Special Purpose District" referred to as Special Enhanced Commercial District 2 (EC-2). According to the New York City's Mayor's Office, EC-2 was "created to maintain, over time, the general multi-store character of Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues, while promoting a varied and active retail environment. The special district provisions apply ground floor frontage limitations for most new and expanding retail and commercial establishments and residential lobbies, and retail transparency requirements for new buildings. Overall store sizes are not restricted, and stores can be laid out with any configuration, including the basement, second story, wrapping behind, or along corner frontages." In developing the Special Enhanced Commercial Districts, New York City endeavored to maintain community shops and the character of the neighborhood. Increasing competition for the scarce transportation resources in the vicinity of the project area is contrary to the establishment of this



zone, as is the likely outcome of changing the neighborhood characteristics as a result of increased, non-local pedestrian traffic through the neighborhood side streets.

### 2. GHD Detailed Review of the Hazardous Materials, Transportation, and Construction Sections of the Draft EIS

GHD completed a detailed review of the referenced three sections of the Draft EIS. Our overall conclusions are as follows:

- The hazardous materials section does not present sufficient information to fully understand the scope of the Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA). However, what information was provided is cause for concern, particularly for residents in the vicinity of the proposed project area.
- The transportation section relies on a number of underlying assumptions that are poorly justified. At a minimum, the transportation section does not provide sufficient justification for those assumptions.
- The construction section acknowledges that the proposed expansion will release materials that could be harmful to residents' health and the health of passerby. However, this section does not provide the detail necessary to reassure residents that their health will be protected.

Our specific comments on these three sections are provided below.

#### 2.1 Hazardous Materials Section of the Draft EIS

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) does not include sufficient information to fully evaluate the Hazardous Materials section. A number of documents were cited in this section of the Draft EIS, but the Draft EIS provided scant summaries of the documents. GHD recommends that the following documents be provided as soon as possible to ensure that the City, environmentalists and members of the community be afforded the opportunity to evaluate the potential impacts of this Project:

- Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, prepared by AKRF, dated November 2016;
- Subsurface (Phase II) Investigation Sampling Protocol and Health and Safety Plan, prepared by AKRF, dated February 2017 and approved by NYCDEP on February 27, 2017; and,
- Subsurface (Phase II) Investigation Report, dated April 2017

GHD also offers the following comments to the Hazardous Materials section:

- Section "A. Introduction" references sections of the Museum that comprise the project site. These areas should be identified on a figure.
- On Page 8-3 in Section "B. Existing Conditions" the following observations were made:
  - It is noted that one 1,080-gallon diesel fuel oil aboveground storage tank (AST) is located in Section 16. Further below, it is noted that three ASTs and one underground storage tank (UST) are registered in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) database, with two of three registered ASTs located within the project site. Basic information



about the second AST (i.e., location within the Museum, capacity, status of containment, etc.) is not provided. The location of the UST and the third AST should be identified, even if they are beyond the extent of the proposed AMNH expansion.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), there are approximately 563,000 active underground storage tanks ("USTs") which are regulated by the EPA's UST technical regulations. There is the potential of disturbing deteriorating USTs which could result in the release of petroleum or other hazardous substances into the soil and groundwater.

The EPA has further observed that, prior to the adoption of UST regulations in the mid-1980s, the majority of USTs were steel, single-wall tanks. Thousands of these USTs corroded and released materials into the soil and groundwater. The United States Department of Transportation tracks UST discharge statistics for locations throughout the United States. Thus far, more than a half million discharges from USTs have been documented throughout the United States, and an alarming 71,000+ releases have not been completely cleaned up.

Disturbance of USTs, particularly those in close proximity to the Museum, would tend to concentrate any volatile organic vapors indoors. The vapors that are generated from gasoline contamination below in close proximity to the Museum may seep into the building through cracks in the foundation or utility pipe penetrations through the foundation. The EPA's document entitled "What You Should Know about Vapor Intrusion" warns that "people may experience eye and respiratory irritation, headaches, and/or nausea" as a result of exposure.

Vapors of certain compounds known to be associated with gasoline contamination, such as benzene, are known carcinogens. Exposure, even to low concentrations of benzene for a long period of time, can raise the risk of developing certain types of cancer, as documented in the EPA paper "What You Should Know about Vapor Intrusion."

So long as the USTs remain undisturbed, there would be little risk of exposure except by vapor intrusion. However, demolition and subsequent subsurface work would mobilize the vapors and contaminated soil. Subsurface work is contemplated as part of the construction. As such, workers, passersby and Museum visitors might be exposed to the vapors. The maximum permitted concentration of benzene vapors for construction workers is as low as 1 part per million (ppm), as governed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. The Center for Disease Control's document "Facts about Benzene" provides information regarding the effects of benzene on the human body and the symptoms of benzene exposure. Benzene generally causes human cells not to work properly: for example, benzene "can cause bone marrow not to produce enough red blood cells, which can lead to anemia." Symptoms of benzene vapor exposure range from drowsiness and dizziness to rapid heartbeat to headaches to unconsciousness and death.

Any gasoline that was stored in the USTs before the mid-1980s would likely contain gasoline infused with organic lead. Organic lead is potentially more toxic even than benzene, with exposure limits to skin and mucous membranes of as low as 0.075 ppm. Tetraethyl lead, one of the forms of organic lead, targets such important organs and systems as the central nervous system, the eyes, and the kidneys. Symptoms of exposure range from insomnia and lassitude to anxiety and tremors to weight loss to confusion and hallucinations and finally to coma.

In summary, given the ages of the Museum and Theodore Roosevelt Park, and the likely age of the USTs therein sited, there is a high likelihood of contamination, particularly during and immediately after demolition, construction and excavation/subsurface work. Given the population density in the area, the consequences of contamination would likely be severe. By contrast, in the no-action scenario, the USTs effect on human health would likely be non-existent.



- As the Draft EIS is dated May 18, 2017, the status of the Museum as generator of hazardous wastes should be updated.
- A figure identifying the location of the Exterior Yard and location of chemical storage sheds should be prepared.
- o It is noted that arsenic-preserved hides are stored in Section 1 and Section 7A of the Museum, which are within the defined project site. Was arsenic preservation done on site? If so, where was this process located relative to the project site and how were new, as well as spent arsenic-containing preservation solutions handled and disposed of?
- Locations of in-service and closed-in-place storage tanks should be indicated on a figure.
- An Asbestos Management Plan is noted as being in place for the project site buildings. A copy of
  the Asbestos Management Plan should be provided for review as soon as possible to allow the City,
  environmentalists, and the community to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated
  with the Project.
- Presence of potential lead-based paint was noted. While GHD believes that the presence of leadbased paint is highly likely on existing AMNH surfaces adjacent to the AMNH expansion area, it is unclear from the Hazardous Materials section whether any testing was completed to confirm or refute the presence of lead-based paint. If present, the extent is not documented.
- Provide final (i.e., re-located) locations for the chemical storage sheds currently situated in the Exterior Yard in Section "D. Future with the Proposed Project."
- Vapor barrier recommendation presented Section "D. The Future with the Proposed Project" is the Grace PrePrufe® line of products. Per Technical Note 4 Chemical Resistance (accessed 6/8/2017) prepared by GCP Applied Technologies, "While highly resistant to normal ground water conditions the Grace PrePrufe® line of products has variable resistance to intermittent and/or continuous exposure to fuel oils and solvents." Chlorinated volatile organic compounds were identified as being present at concentrations in excess of the applicable standards in both groundwater and soil gas. It is recommended that a different liner should be considered for installation as part of the foundation construction. This should be determined immediately and provided for review.
- In the summary of "Subsurface (Phase II) Investigation," the following information should be provided immediately:
  - Figure showing the locations of installed soil borings, monitoring wells, and soil gas sampling points as they relate to the project site.
  - Total number of soil borings conducted, the quantity of soil samples collected per boring, and the
    test results for each boring. The completion depth of borings and depths of soil samples
    collected should also be provided in the same table or on the same figure.
  - Total number of monitoring wells installed, as well as the depth and length of the installed screen intervals. Well construction details at a minimum whether permanent or temporary wells were



- installed –should be made available for review. The Hazardous Materials section also does not identify the sampling methodology used for the collection of groundwater.
- Total number of soil gas sampling points installed, as well as the depths below ground surface and the surface cover at each sampling location. Soil gas sampling procedures, including any results of quality assurance procedures completed that would minimize outdoor air infiltration during sampling, are not provided in the Hazardous Materials section.

#### 2.2 Transportation Section of the Draft EIS

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) does not include sufficient information to fully evaluate the findings of the Transportation section. In particular, the vehicular and pedestrian traffic assessments are based on assumed increased museum attendance and assumed use of the proposed museum entrance on the western side of the AMNH. GHD notes that the Draft EIS does not present signal timings; as such, the calculations for vehicle use, sidewalk use, and pedestrian crossings at intersections could not be verified. Such information should be provided prior to completion of the Final EIS. GHD further offers the following comments and raises the following questions pertaining to the Transportation Section of the Draft EIS:

- The Draft EIS indicates that the estimate of 630,000 additional visitors to the AMNH annually (following the proposed construction) was based on the increased attendance following capital improvements at other museums and visitor attractions. However, the Draft EIS does not provide relevant details to justify or even explain this estimate. Furthermore, the AMNH's emphasis upon the degree to which the expansion would enhance the museum experience for visitors suggests that simple, vanilla comparisons to other museum expansions are decidedly inexact for purposes of evaluating the potential environmental impacts caused by the likely swell of additional visits. At a minimum, the names, locations, nature of the improvements, and other information relative to the other museums to which this expansion has been compared would be required to justify AKRF's estimate of 630,000 additional visitors. And the estimated increase in attendance is of critical importance in predicting the effect of the expansion on the already stressed transportation infrastructure.
- Among the proposed elements of the with-action condition is construction of a primary entrance on the western side of the AMNH. Upon completion of this entrance, the percentage of visitors accessing the AMNH via the western side is anticipated to increase from 11% to only 20%. Given the higher number of residents, parking garages, on-street parking, bus stops, and subway stops to the southwest, west, and northwest of the AMNH, it is unclear how this minimal increase was determined. As this assumption is critical to understanding the post-construction transportation infrastructure, not to mention the increased traffic through the Park and the potential to change the neighborhood characteristics, this assumption must be explained immediately.
- The Draft EIS assumes a minimal (2%) increase in usage for the 79th Street subway. However, this subway stop is proximal to the proposed western entrance to the AMNH, which, according to the Draft EIS, would be a primary entrance to the AMNH. The Draft EIS does not attempt to justify or even explain the computation of this minimal increase, of which we are especially skeptical.
- The traffic analysis level of service (LOS) results (vehicles, sidewalks and crossings) presented in the report's tables cannot be verified without the inclusion of the Highway Capacity Software modeling



program HCS+ reports that include pertinent input values and output results, collected traffic data, and intersection signal timing plans. For example, the methodologies utilized in the HCS+ 5.5 traffic analysis software utilizes intersection signal timing plans to evaluate expected pedestrian delays. However, have signal timing plans been modified (optimized) in the software under future conditions in response to future traffic volume increases, and consequently are these modified signal timings used in the future conditions analysis of pedestrian LOS? Verification of proper signal timing input into the software is also not possible without provision of the HCS+ reports. Furthermore, verification that the analysis results presented in the report's tables have properly been transferred from the HCS+ reports is also not possible. Generally speaking, traffic analysis projects append all pertinent traffic analysis reports from the utilized software application for the provision of subsequent peer reviews.

- The Existing, 2021 With No Action and 2021 With Action Sidewalk Analysis, Corner Analysis and Crosswalk Analysis presented in Section F beginning on page 9-40 explains how the procedures outlined in the CEQR Technical Manual were followed but there is no detailed information provided as to how certain inputs were determined. For example the Sidewalk Analysis uses "effective width" along sections of sidewalk yet there is no mention as to how this width has been calculated nor how the peak hour factors were established. Signal timings are also not provided which makes it impossible to verify calculations of LOS for Corners and Crosswalks.
- A figure identifying the sidewalk effective widths, intersection corner areas and crosswalk areas should be prepared and should be provided for review prior to issuance of the Final EIS.
- The determination of sidewalk LOS is dependent on whether pedestrian flows are classified as "non-platoon" or "platoon" which makes a significant difference to the LOS calculation. There is no indication in the report or data provided as to how it was determined that pedestrian flows along each section of sidewalk analyzed is suggestive of "platoon" flows.
- Peak hour vehicle queueing was not assessed in the traffic analysis. No justification has been provided for omitting this measure. Queuing analysis is useful in determining of traffic queues at intersection approaches are exceeding available storage lengths and/or extending to upstream intersections which can induce additional operational concerns. The impacts the project will have on queueing has not been discussed. Generally, traffic analysis projects typically include the following measures: v/c ratio, delay (LOS), and queueing. The reported v/c ratios and LOS provide no indication of expected queueing.
- Page 9-45 states that "Project-generated pedestrian volumes were assigned to the pedestrian network considering site entrance usage projections developed by the Museum, subway station visitor survey data, parking locations, population, and nearby hotels and tourist attractions, and surrounding pedestrian infrastructure." Subsequently, Figures 9-32, 9-33 and 9-34 present the projected pedestrian volumes on the road network for the 2021 With Action Weekday Midday Peak Hour, Weekday PM Peak Hour, and Saturday Peak Hour, respectively. However, it is difficult to verify that the assignment of the pedestrian volumes to the network as shown in these figures appropriately considers the multiple factors listed in the aforementioned quotation from Page 9-45. A map or additional figures providing an illustrative link between the factors listed above expected to impact pedestrian volume assignments and the peak hour pedestrian volume figures would be useful.



Page 9-50 states that "An inventory of on-street parking within a ¼ mile of the site is not required
because nearby on-street parking is already fully utilized, and therefore any new vehicles would likely
utilize off-street parking options instead." The Draft EIS does not clarify whether the determination of full
on-street parking utilization is an assumption, is based on anecdotal evidence, or has been verified
through a field survey.

#### 2.3 Construction Section of the Draft EIS

The construction of the proposed AMNH expansion is anticipated to decrease the residents' use of and enjoyment of the Park. As Theodore Roosevelt Park is an important aspect of the neighborhood, the construction activities will likely change the neighborhood character. As such, it is critical that the Final EIS consider the Socioeconomic Conditions during and after construction.

Perhaps more importantly, however, the construction may potentially impact the health of residents and passerby. The Draft EIS mentions but neither provides nor summarizes the following documents:

- Pre-construction asbestos-containing materials (ACM) and lead-based paint (LBP) surveys and potential schedule impacts in the event of ACM and/or LBP mitigation.
- Soil stockpiling, soil disposal, and transportation/disposal during the excavation of the building foundation.

ACM and LBP may be stirred up during construction and become significant airborne hazards to human health and the environment. Asbestos is a mineral fiber that occurs naturally in rock and soil and because of its fiber strength and heat resistance, it has been used in a variety of building construction materials for insulation and as a fire retardant. Asbestos has also been used in a wide range of other building materials including roofing shingles, ceiling and floor tiles, paper products, and asbestos cement products. Asbestos started being used in the late 1860s and by the 1870s was being sold on a mass scale. Asbestos has been mixed into concrete since the 1870s, and it is also commonly found in roofing materials. Exposure occurs when the asbestos-containing material is disturbed or damaged in some way to release particles and fibers into the air which may occur during demolition work if asbestos-containing materials are present. Exposure to asbestos is known to increase the risk of developing lung disease with disease symptoms usually taking many years to develop following exposure. Three major health effects associated with asbestos exposure are lung cancer, mesothelioma (rare cancer found in the thin lining of the lungs, chest, abdomen, and heart), and asbestosis (progressive long-term non cancer disease of the lungs). Asbestos has been classified by the EPA as a Group A known human carcinogen.

Typical concentrations of asbestos in indoor air when asbestos is released from building materials including insulation and ceiling and floor tiles ranges from 0.001 to 0.2 fibers per cubic centimeter. This number could be higher during demolition activities depending on the level of disturbance and mitigation methods deployed. For comparison, the OSHA regulations state that the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) for asbestos is 0.1 fiber per cubic centimeter of air as an eight-hour time-weighted average (TWA), with an excursion limit (EL) of 1.0 asbestos fibers per cubic centimeter over a 30-minute period.

LBP is one of the building materials that may be a source of lead. Lead and lead compounds have been used in a wide variety of products used for building materials including paint, ceramics, pipes and plumbing



materials, and solders. Lead-based paint use was banned in 1978 by the Toxic Substances Control Act. With few exceptions, if a building was constructed before 1978 (as is true of the AMNH), it is highly likely to contain lead paint. These coatings are often hidden under more recent paint layers and generally do not pose a health threat until disturbed (for example, during the proposed construction project). Lead paint becomes a concern as it deteriorates becoming friable or if it is disturbed as it would be during the with-action condition, leaving paint chips and dust in the air. People can inhale lead dust by spending time in proximity to surfaces where lead-based paint is deteriorating, and during activities such as the proposed construction work that disturbs painted surfaces in buildings.

EPA states that lead exposure "affects the nervous system and can cause a range of health effects, from behavioral to problems and learning disabilities, to seizures and death" and "lead from paint is the most common cause of lead poisoning". The degree of damage is dependent on the amount of lead taken into the body over time as lead bio-accumulates in tissue. Lead poisoning has been linked to anemia, central nervous system, kidney and immune system damage, and learning disabilities. Lead can be toxic to humans and animals causing many different negative health effects. Children under the age of six and fetuses exposed through lead in their mother's blood are most susceptible. Preventative Medicine (1993), states that the equivalent of only three granules of lead dust can begin to poison a child. Studies reported in the Journal of the National Medical Association have linked demolition activities to increased lead exposure in children. Children with high levels of lead can suffer from damage to the brain and nervous system, behavior and learning problems, slowed growth, hearing problems, headaches, anemia, and rare cases of acute poisoning can lead to seizures, coma, and death. Concerns regarding release of LBP are particularly acute with respect to the proposed Project, insofar as the construction work would take place in a public park and directly across the street from a public schoolyard where children, who are the most vulnerable to LBP contamination, are likely to congregate.

Lead accumulates in bodies over time and is stored in the bones with calcium. It is then released from the bones during pregnancy as the maternal calcium is used to form the bones of the developing fetus. Lead can also be transferred from the mother to fetus through blood. The effects of mothers having high levels of lead include increased miscarriages, premature or low birth weights, brain damage, decreased mental abilities and learning difficulties, and/or reduced child growth.

According to The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) the Recommended Exposure Limit (REL) for lead is a Time Weighted Average of 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air ( $\mu$ g/m3) over 8-hours. The required (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) for lead is also no greater than 50  $\mu$ g/m3 averaged over an 8-hour period. The PEL is reduced for shifts longer than 8 hours by the equation PEL = 400/hours worked. The required OSHA PEL action level for lead in general industry and the construction industry is a Time Weighted Average of 30  $\mu$ g/m3 over 8-hours. Some studies suggest that the current OSHA PEL and NIOSH REL may be too high to protect against certain health effects.



#### 3. Viable Alternative

GHD believes that Alternative 2, as described in the Draft EIS, deserves additional exploration as a viable alternative to the proposed with-action scenario and the neighborhood disruptions that would be caused by that scenario. Alternative 2 is the re-use of current AMNH administrative space coupled with moving the administrative areas to a to-be-determined location outside of Theodore Roosevelt Park. As per the Draft EIS (Page 16-8), Alternative 2 "would change the configuration of the Museum's existing administrative and programmatic functions, but would not result in a physical expansion of the Museum." Further, the Draft EIS notes "Like the proposed project, Alternative 2 would be compatible with the surrounding residential, commercial, institutional, and open space uses." GHD does not agree that the proposed (with-action) project is compatible with the listed elements, but does agree that Alternative 2 could be compatible with these elements. GHD further proposes an enhancement to Alternative 2: that the western entrance, which would be enhanced under the currently proposed with-action condition, not be improved. Without a western entrance, the function of Theodore Roosevelt Park as a community resource would be preserved.

Under the with-action scenario, significant impacts to Theodore Roosevelt Park and the surrounding area include traffic and pedestrian congestion (Transportation); loss of use of the park and, at least during construction, to adjacent sections of Columbus Avenue (Socioeconomic Conditions); and, mobilization of toxic airborne contaminants such as asbestos, lead, and petroleum vapors (Hazardous Materials and Construction). All these problems caused by the proposed with-action condition would be avoided under Alternative 2.

The Draft EIS provides two reasons why Alternative 2 is not as suitable as the currently proposed with-action scenario: 1) the administrative spaces that would be displaced are located in remote areas of the AMNH, such that the arrangement of museum exhibits could not be appropriately co-located and 2) the EIS does not need to consider Alternative 2 as a viable alternative, because it requires the AMNH to utilize land it does not own or have the right to use. With respect to objection 1, it seems to GHD that the AMNH is making a decision to inconvenience area residents, including especially those who use the park, in order to preserve what the museum considers to be what is convenient for the museum. Has a study been conducted to evaluate alternative arrangements, perhaps consolidating the square footage of certain exhibits to make others be optimally arranged? If so, this study has not been included in the Draft EIS nor, to GHD's knowledge, has it been made available to area residents for review. To be a good neighbor to the area residents, the AMNH really must take these steps and see whether the invasive construction is truly warranted.

With regards to the AMNH's second objection, that it is not required to consider Alternative 2 as a viable alternative to the proposed with-action condition, GHD agrees that CEQR does may not require the AMNH to fully assess Alternative 2. However, that is not the same as saying that the AMNH should not fully assess Alternative 2. It may be true that the AMNH does not own or have the right to access off-site property for the purpose of housing museum administrative staff, but GHD notes that the AMNH also has access to expand into Theodore Roosevelt Park only as allowed permitted by New York State and City law and only as allowed by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. We have been informed that the AMNH may not have the right under its lease to expand further into Theodore Roosevelt Park. Furthermore, it is our



understanding that the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation may also have some input about the AMNH's expansion into Theodore Roosevelt Park. Therefore, the with-action condition and Alternative 2 are equal – both require access to property that the AMNH does not own or have rights to use. As such, this objection to Alternative 2 is really no objection at all

#### 4. Summary of GHD Findings

GHD's findings can be summarized as follows. The Draft EIS does not include a Socioeconomic Conditions assessment, which is clearly indicated because the neighborhood characteristics will be changed during construction and possibly following construction. Among the sections provided, the Draft EIS does not contain sufficient information to assess the calculations and underlying assumptions of such technical areas as Hazardous Materials, Transportation, and Construction. These three sections are the basis for a number of other sections addressed in the Draft EIS; as such, the findings of the entire document may be different were the findings of these sections to be revised.

Further, the construction is likely to mobilize materials that are highly hazardous to human health. These materials include, but are not limited to, asbestos and lead. The Construction section indicates that the construction work would be completed as per work plans that take containment of these materials into account. However, the details of these plans are not provided. As asbestos can cause lung disease, mesothelioma, and lung cancer and lead exposure can affect the central nervous system, including brain development in children, the lack of such details is startling and should be immediately rectified. The work plans should be provided for review prior to the Final EIS.

GHD is encouraged by one of the alternatives listed in the Draft EIS, and believes that additional consideration should be given to that alternative. The alternative, Alternative 2, is to minimize or eliminate the need for AMNH expansion by moving administrative offices to an alternative location. This alternative action would allow the museum to house its additional exhibits while minimizing the loss of use of the Park during construction and the change in Park character after construction, the anticipated additional stress to existing transportation infrastructure, and the risk to human health that are associated with the currently proposed expansion.

#### TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY: MICHAEL S. HILLER, HILLER PC ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY UNITED

June 15, 2017

#### I. INTRODUCTION

My name is Michael Hiller. I am a land-use, preservation and environmental attorney, and the managing principal of Hiller, PC. We represent Community United and an assortment of other citizen's groups dedicated to preserving Theodore Roosevelt Park. In all, we represent approximately 15,000 people, a third of whom have already signed a petition opposing the Museum's project. Yes, we already have approximately 5,000 signatures from affected residents who rightly believe that the proposed expansion at the expense of precious greenspace in Teddy Roosevelt Park would constitute bad public policy and, as I'll get to in a few minutes, would violate the law. A copy of the Petition is submitted herewith as Exhibit 1.

#### II. SEQRA

#### A. Generally/GHD and its Reputation, and AKRF

But before addressing the law, I would like first to address the environmental issues, since the environment is the premise for this hearing. In particular, the purpose of this evening's hearing is to ascertain whether the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is sufficient within the meaning of SEQRA. It isn't.

Today, I bring with me an environmental analysis prepared by GHD Consulting – one of the largest and most renowned environmental consulting firms in the world. GHD has offices in 130 countries, on six continents, but, amazingly, they do not have a New York office and they do not do very much business for NYC's developers. Accordingly, GHD is not beholden to the NYC development community.

By contrast, AKRF, the firm that was hired by the AMNH, is the NYC developer's environmental consultant of choice and for good reason – AKRF consistently issues reports and analyses favorable to development. I have never reviewed an environmental analysis by AKRF that did not bend over backwards to favor a development project. As I'll get to in a moment, this matter is no exception.

But before doing so, I wish to point out that, while AKRF owes allegiance to developers throughout the City, GHD, which I emphasize, is a world-renowned and universally-respected environmental firm, owes allegiance to no one. Unlike those of AKRF, GHD's conclusions are independent. GHD cannot be influenced. Its global reputation demands GHD's continued intellectual honesty and corporate integrity. It is against this background that I address the environmental issues posed by the DEIS.

#### B. <u>Inadequacies of AKRF'S DEIS</u>

GHD has concluded that the DEIS is insufficient for an assortment of reasons. Rather than proceeding through the entire GHD report, which would consume more time than I have available to me, I simply submit the report for your consideration and highlight several issues for your consideration this evening. The full copy of the GHD Report is submitted herewith as Exhibit 2.

#### 1. 630,000 - where'd that figure come from?

The transportation section of the DEIS includes a number of assumptions that are neither justified nor even explained. For example, the DEIS assumes that the increase in square footage will increase the number of Museum visits by 630,000 per year; however, the sole evidence offered in support of this proposition is that this figure is equivalent to the average increase experienced by other museums that have expanded over the years. But, as explained by GHD, precious little detail is offered in support of this notion, such as the names of the other museums, their locations, the nature of the improvements made during the other expansions, and related information.

In addition, the emphasis that AKRF, in its DEIS, places on the degree to which the proposed expansion is supposed to enhance the visitors' Museum Experience must also factor into what should be a more individualized analysis. Simply put -- if the improvements are so necessary, and are going to be so dramatic, that the Museum experience is going to be so vastly improved, then a plain vanilla comparison to other museums is not appropriate. Unfortunately, since AKRF failed to provide any of the information upon which AKRF relied, this more careful comparison is not possible.

This failure to provide information renders environmental analysis and public comment simply impractical, if not impossible.

#### 2. 630,000 Figure is Very Important

If the 630,000 figure is inaccurate -- as it plainly is -- , that would affect dozens of other considerations, such as the pedestrian foot traffic, vehicular traffic, burdens on transportation infrastructure (including subways and buses), and the effect that increased visits would have on public resources, such as in particular Teddy Roosevelt Park.

Pedestrian foot traffic, vehicle traffic, transportation infrastructure and burdens on public resources are each independent environmental impacts that are supposed to be separately evaluated in a DEIS; however, because the assumptions concerning additional visitors is, at the moment, completely unsupported, these other environmental impacts cannot be adequately considered. For example, if the

increase in visitors were to be 1.5 Million (instead of \$630,000), then the assumptions made by AKRF concerning the number of buses used, the number of pedestrians traipsing through the park, the number of cars queuing along Columbus, the burdens on the subways, etc, all must be re-evaluated. The DEIS thus should be deemed inadequate on this basis alone.

#### 3. Western Entrance Usage

Even taking the 630,000 figure at face value, AKRF's assumptions pertaining to what can only be described as minimal additional use made of the western entrance to the Museum doesn't make any sense.

AKRF assumes that the western entrance, because of the enhancements to be made, would become a "primary entrance" to the Museum. Yet, AKRF suggests, without explanation, that the use of the western entrance, after the enhancements, would increase from 11 to 20% – a mere 9% increase. Respectfully, that figure makes no sense. Presumably, AKRF took the manufactured figure of 630,000 new visits, calculated that an additional 630,000 visits represents a 9% increase in visits over the 5 million visits from last year, and then assumed that all of the new visitors comprising the 9% increase in visits would use the enhanced western entrance. Respectfully, that's incredibly simplistic.

Such an analysis would provide no consideration to the likelihood that most, if not all, west-siders, who already visit the Museum and thus wouldn't be part of the 630,000 additional visits, would use the enhanced western entrance with far greater frequency. Tourists staying at hotels on the west side would similarly use the western entrance with greater frequency. Schools are more likely to use the western entrance. People who want to eat at Shake Shack would use the western entrance.

In short, AKRF's analysis of the western entrance usage needs to be explained and justified. Without more information, the City cannot evaluate this plan, and environmentalists and community residents cannot offer their input. And so the DEIS should be rejected.

#### 4. Other Problems

This is only a representative sampling of problems associated with the DEIS. Others include that:

• The traffic analysis is inadequate because AKRF didn't use highway capacity software modeling, which is the standard for assessing traffic data, the impact of signal timing, pedestrian usage and delays, and other evidence of environmental impacts.

- The traffic analysis fails to assess peak hour vehicle queuing, which results in congestion, and interference with pedestrian walkways and bicycle usage.
- The construction would risk release of hazardous materials, including lead-base paint, lead-based gasoline, arsenic, benzene, asbestos, chlorinated volatile organic compounds, materials from underground storage tanks and other hazardous chemicals and substances. AKRF somehow concludes that release of these substances does not threaten an adverse environmental impact an absurd and thus actionable conclusion.

And all of this is in close proximity to the park and a public school and school yard across the street. While AKRF is legendary for its white-wash of environmental hazards, we cannot allow a slap-dash, developer-friendly report to endanger our environment, endanger our community residents, or endanger our children. There's too much at stake.

And, again, this is not even close to an exhaustive analysis of the DEIS's deficiencies. Again, I'll provide a copy of GHD's analysis, which is far more comprehensive than what I can report to you during this proceeding.

#### III. THE LAW

Lastly, I need to address the extent to which this environmental review process is an academic exercise. The Museum cannot legally expand without compliance with the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, otherwise known as ULURP.

The lease between the City and the Museum grants the Museum the "building and the appurtenances thereunto belonging." The word, "appurtenances," as defined in 1877 when the lease was entered into, means the <u>use</u> (not possession, but use) of land that is necessary in order for the building to be usable. So, the Museum received possession of the building and land upon which it is situated and use of Teddy Roosevelt Park to allow visitors to enter and exit the Museum. The lease does not grant the Museum <u>possession</u> of any other portion of Teddy Roosevelt Park. And the right to an appurtenance, as an easement, does not, as a matter of New York law, ever grant the tenant the power to build on the easement. Easement means use, not possession and not the power to construct buildings.

I know that there are those who believe that the Court's decision in *Tuck v. Heckshire* establishes that the Museum has the right to possess additional land, but the Court in *Tuck* and the other cases involving the City's museums and parkland never addressed the particular language of the AMNH's lease and the issue of appurtenances. The case that addresses the meaning of the term "appurtenances" is *Doyle v. Lord*, an 1876 NY Court of Appeals decision, which authoritatively confirms that appurtenances, in the context of non-residential real estate, and most importantly, <u>as</u>

<u>defined at the time the lease was entered into</u>, meant an easement across land that is necessary for the tenant's use of demised premises. That's all.

If the Museum desires to build an addition on Teddy Roosevelt Parkland, the Museum must ask for an amendment to the lease, which would require ULURP review and approval.

If the Museum were to decline to follow this procedure, I'd have to institute litigation on behalf of the 15,000 plus members of the coalitions I represent.

And I can assure you that I would take no joy in that. I love the AMNH. I used to come here with my parents as a child. My elementary school used to take me here on school trips. When I had kids, I brought them here every year. And they love it. My son was mesmerized by the dinosaurs. My daughter wants to become a museum curator. We love museums. So, I want to emphasize that my representation of these coalitions is not borne out of malice; rather, it is out of respect for this institution. And so I urge your group to demand that:

- the Museum comply with the law,
- respect the wishes of the community,
- abide by all environmental requirements,
- and above all else, do what's best for the people of the City.

Only in this way will the Museum retain its status as the City's most beloved institution.



# Testimony of LANDMARK WEST! Before the NYC Parks Department American Museum of Natural History Proposal for Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education and Innovation June 15, 2017

LANDMARK WEST! is a not-for-profit community organization committed to the preservation of the architectural heritage of the Upper West Side.

LANDMARK WEST! wishes to comment on the application to demolish three existing buildings, and construct a five-story (up to 105' tall), 180,000-gross-square-foot addition on the Columbus Avenue side of the NYC Individual Landmark American Museum of Natural History at 79th Street, a site located in Theodore Roosevelt Park in the Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District. This expansion, occupying approximately a quarter-acre of public parkland is for the Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education and Innovation.

LANDMARK WEST! has testified previously on this project, including at the Scoping Session in April of 2016, noting that the Statement of Significant Effect recognizes "that the proposed project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment".

In reviewing the twenty primary sections outlined in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) it is clear that the applicant-driven program stands paramount to any lens of evaluation. Moreover, the applicant expects the City and the public to accept its self-serving analysis of future impacts/no impact but refuses to put forth a comprehensive master plan to guide its growth. The refusal to do so *signals the Museum's intention to continue expanding into the Park*. The foresight we seek may have prevented the proposed demolition of the Weston Pavilion, a 16-year-old facility, which is among the casualties before you. The following comments cite directly from the New York City Parks Department evaluation, with the understanding that there will be a "project attendance and utilization increment of approximately 745,000 annual visitors" (1-15)

Regarding Land Use:

"[The project] would not result in a significant adverse impact" (2-1)

Regarding Open Space:

"The proposed project would result in a reduction in available open space in Theodore Roosevelt Park of approximately 0.27 acres...While adverse, this loss...would not result in a significant adverse impact..." (3-2)

#### Regarding Shadows:

"The analysis found that the proposed project would cast new shadows on Theodore Roosevelt Park in all seasons...the proposed project would not result in any adverse shadow impacts". (4-1)

Regarding Historic and Cultural Resources:

"...beyond the Museum complex, the proposed project would not be anticipated to have any significant adverse impacts..." (5-17)

And so on.

One must question this report comprised of alternative facts for an alternate reality. The Schizophrenic findings find adverse impacts and repeatedly dismiss them in the same breath. Furthermore, the report fails to address cumulative impacts.

For all of its examination, the DEIS does not assess the Museum Program, which the applicant claims is the very impetus driving this process. The DEIS just accepts it.

In April, we urged the Parks Department:

Gilder Center aside, now is the time when the Museum should be asked to consider offsite alternatives for future expansions as a means of mitigation... Any plan which does not establish limits for future expansion into Theodore Roosevelt Park is fundamentally inappropriate.

After reading the AKRF's findings—if not their conclusions, we stand by that position.

Thank you for your consideration.



## NYC Department of Parks & Recreation DEIS Hearing on Proposed AMNH Gilder Center Expansion June 19, 2017 Lynn Kelly, Executive Director

New Yorkers for Parks is the city's independent research-based advocacy organization championing quality parks for all New Yorkers. We have been closely following the American Museum of Natural History's plans for the construction of the Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation. Our comments submitted today will be restricted to the plans and impact this project will have on Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt Park.

We believe that the Gilder Center, as planned and presented to New Yorkers for Parks, will be a fitting addition to the Museum's campus and to the surrounding park. We are pleased that the progression of the design for this expansion has incorporated community concerns and feedback, and we believe that the current proposed design will impact less parkland and fewer trees than what had originally been planned in 2015, when the expansion was first announced. In response to community concerns over the proposed removal of nine mature trees, at least two will be preserved, and the landscape around them will be better designed to ensure their long-term health. To make up for the loss of the seven other mature trees, we are pleased to hear that the Museum is committed to planting six new canopy trees, and 15 understory trees within the park, as well as additional tree plantings throughout New York City.

While some fencing will be retained, we believe the reconfigured and widened entrance at 79th Street and Columbus Avenue will provide a more welcoming entrance to the park, while increasing accessibility overall. Additionally, the proposed setbacks of the building's higher floors will allow light and air to reach the Arthur Ross Terrace that runs parallel to the 81st Street perimeter of the park and Museum. The expansion of the Margaret Mead Green will also allow for better circulation in the park, while creating new space for both passive and active recreation.

We would like to see a firm commitment to the long-term maintenance and operations of Teddy Roosevelt Park included in the final plans for the Gilder Center expansion. We welcome the planned park improvements, but acknowledge that they will require additional maintenance that NYC Parks likely does not have the existing capacity for. We would encourage the Museum to set a firm financial commitment to the ongoing maintenance of this location, which would benefit visitors to the park and the institution itself.

It is our understanding that the institution's original land grant agreement with the City was upheld in 1999, and the footprint of this new Gilder Center would fall within the original Master Plan for the Museum. For these reasons, NY4P does not believe this expansion constitutes an alienation of the ½ acre of parkland that would be impacted by the project. We are pleased to see the Museum's commitment to soliciting community input and feedback in the ultimate design of this space, and feel

that appropriate concessions have thus far been made to minimize the impact of this project while improving and retaining the original character of this lovely corner of Theodore Roosevelt Park. We offer our approval to the Museum's planned expansion and construction of the Gilder Center. Thank you.

###

For over 100 years, New Yorkers for Parks (NY4P) has built, protected, and promoted parks and open spaces in New York City. Today, NY4P is the citywide independent organization championing quality parks and open spaces for all New Yorkers in all neighborhoods. www.ny4p.org

#### Wells, Owen (Parks)

From: Steven CF Anderson <steve@trpna.org>
Sent: Saturday. June 24, 2017 1:39 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks); Benepe, Adrian; Helen Rosenthal; Marisa (CM Rosenthal) Maack; MBP

Info; John (Beresford) Phufas; Jonathan (Beresford) Lipnick; trpnaboard@trpna.org

**Cc:** Castro, William (Parks); Simon, Steve (Parks)

Subject: Re: Extended Deadline

The congestion remediation recommended in the DEIS is to adjust the traffic light timing by one second (yes, 1 second) at both the corners of 81st Street at Columbus Avenue and Central Park West!! Who can take that as a learned serious effort. No one.

We understand the politicized nature of this carefully orchestrated process but to see the Parks Dept manipulated and collaborating so blatantly is disappointing. Park people are better than that, we firmly believe. We know that from past experience.

No doubt more savvy investigators will write articles, books and more about this entire process, and hopefully for all to better re-learn the past lessons of genuine citizen engagement with those wardens entrusted with great civic responsibilities.

Allowing a few more weeks would have done harm? Wreaked havoc with planning? Violated regulations?

Steve Anderson

Steve Anderson, President, TRPNA
Theodore Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association Inc
Founded by the Co-ops of
West 81st St, CPW to Columbus
917-940-7125



On Jun 24, 2017, at 12:31 AM, Wells, Owen (Parks) < Owen. Wells@parks.nyc.gov> wrote:

Dear Mr. Anderson-

Thank you for your engagement in the environmental review process. NYC Parks is in receipt of your email requesting additional time to comment on the Gilder Center DEIS to allow time for your independent traffic study focusing on congested conditions on West 81st Street.

As you know, existing traffic conditions in the neighborhood were considered during the scoping process as the range of issues and considerations to be evaluated in the EIS analyses was developed. NYC Parks received comments from the Theodore Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association on the draft scope in April 2016. The transportation analysis in the DEIS looks at the incremental effects of trips generated by construction and operation of the Gilder Center compared against not only existing conditions, but also additional growth reasonably expected to occur by 2021. The DEIS recognizes that existing traffic and pedestrian conditions are already congested at times and susceptible to worsening in service levels.

The public comment period on the DEIS was established based on the applicable rules and regulations under the SEQRA and CEQR, which take into account the substantive nature of the analyses included in a DEIS. NYC Parks has already allowed for more time than was required between the issuance of the DEIS and the June 15 public hearing. As a result, the end of the comment period will remain June 26, 2017.

We encourage TRPNA to submit comments on the DEIS as soon as possible. We welcome your continued participation in the process.

Owen

Owen Wells, AICP
Director of Environmental Review

T 212.360.3492 E owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

NYC Parks The Arsenal, Central Park 830 Fifth Avenue, Rm. 401 New York, NY 10065 nyc.gov/parks

Follow Parks on: Facebook | Twitter | foursquare | Instagram | YouTube

From: Steven CF Anderson [mailto:steve@trpna.org]

Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 1:33 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: Extended Deadline

Dear Mr Wells,

We would like to request an extension of the deadline for public comments on the AMNH's DEIS.

TRPNA is conducting an independent traffic study focusing upon West 81st Street where the congestion situation is most serious. The study should be completed prior to August 15th.

Please advise prior to the deadline, with thanks.

Steve Anderson

Steve Anderson, President, TRPNA
Theodore Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association Inc
Founded by the Co-ops of
West 81st St, CPW to Columbus
917-940-7125



From: Steven CF Anderson <steve@trpna.org>

**Sent:** Friday, June 23, 2017 1:33 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: Extended Deadline

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Steve Anderson

Steve Anderson, President, TRPNA
Theodore Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association Inc
Founded by the Co-ops of
West 81st St, CPW to Columbus
917-940-7125



From: Steven CF Anderson <steve@trpna.org>
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 12:55 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: urgent-----Fwd: AMNH DEIS - Public Comment from Theodore Roosevelt Park Neighborhood

Association Inc (TRPNA)

Please confirm receipt, with thanks.

Steve Anderson, President
Theodore Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association Inc (TRPNA)
Founded by the Co-ops of West 81st Street, CPW to Columbus Ave
Steve@TRPNA.org
917-940-7125



## Begin forwarded message:

From: Steven CF Anderson <steve@trpna.org>

**Subject: AMNH DEIS - Public Comment from Theodore Roosevelt Park** 

Neighborhood Association Inc (TRPNA)

Date: June 26, 2017 at 12:36:41 PM EDT

To: "Wells, Owen (Parks)" < <a href="mailto:Owen.Wells@parks.nyc.gov">Owen.Wells@parks.nyc.gov</a>>, "Commissioner Mitchell J.

Silver, FAICP" <commissioner@parks.nyc.gov>, Helen Rosenthal

<hr/>

Cc: "Simon, Steve (Parks)" < Steve.Simon@parks.nyc.gov >, William Bill Castro

<William.Castro@parks.nyc.gov>

June 26, 2017

Owen Wells, Director of Environmental Review New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

Via Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells.

The Theodore Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association (TRPNA) was founded by the co-ops on West 81st Street between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue, the northern neighbors of the American Museum of Natural History. TRPNA states for the record that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (a) totally fails to address the *currently existing* serious and increasingly dangerous traffic congestion on our block, including at the intersections of

Columbus Avenue and Central Park West at West 81<sup>st</sup> Street, and (b) falsely concludes that any additional traffic generated by visitors to the proposed Gilder Center will not worsen congestion on the block. **This conclusion defies common sense.** 

We expect far better from our venerable neighbor across the street, one of the nation's greatest scientific and educational institutions. We have every right to demand that the Museum honestly address the challenges in the neighborhood. Instead, the Museum is engaging in what amounts to a cover up of *currently existing* serious and dangerous congestion, and is serving up self-serving patently flawed predictions of future congestion and marginal methods of dealing with it. The Museum's current transportation plan has already converted our beloved block into a transit corridor. The DEIS gives every evidence that the Museum intends to make the situation even worse.

We live here and feel that those currently in charge of the Museum's operations and the planned development of the Gilder Center project have lost sight of the Museum's longstanding relationship with the Upper West Side. A great institution needs to show vision and enlightenment and reflect carefully on the impact of its expansion plans on its neighbors in a congested urban landscape. Many critics have called upon the Museum to expand elsewhere. We believe it would be possible for the Museum to expand on its current campus, but it is incumbent upon the Museum to rethink its approach. Greatness is often measured by restraint, an attribute that would be greatly appreciated by the Museum's neighbors at this time.

Taking away park space for the construction of the massive Gilder Center is yet another sign of the Museum's disregard for the surrounding community, especially to the youngest and oldest amongst us who enjoy the peaceful gem of Theodore Roosevelt Park. Repeatedly asserting in the DEIS that few people will actually ever use the Gilder Center entrance on Columbus Avenue is totally disingenuous and is affront to our sensibilities.

One of the recommendations in the DEIS, to mitigate the impact of additional congestion at the two corners of our block is to **adjust the timing of the traffic lights by one second!** This change would hardly improve current traffic conditions much less deal with increased congestion following the building of the Gilder Center. It is this pattern of dealing with serious problems by proposing marginal measures that has forced us to regretfully conclude that left to its own devises the Museum will not do what is right for the neighborhood.

In summary, we fervently call upon the Parks Department, the Mayor's Office, New York City Council and Office of the Brough President, and all civic leaders to demonstrate that they can effectively defend the interests of citizens who care deeply about their community and have been repeatedly assured that this is not a done deal.

Make it a bette	r deal for	· the Uppe	er West Side.
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Show us!

Steve Anderson, President, Theodore Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association

Steve@trpna.org

CC: TRPNA Board of Directors
For Immediate Media Release

Steve Anderson, President
Theodore Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association Inc (TRPNA)
Founded by the Co-ops of West 81st Street, CPW to Columbus Ave
Steve@TRPNA.org
917-940-7125



To: Owen Wells, Director of Environmental Review New York City Department of Parks and Recreation The Arsenal, Central Park 830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401 New York, NY 10065

May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Comment re: NYC Parks public hearing on the draft EIS for the Gilder Center on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at AMNH

Jerrold Alpern – Native Upper West Sider and Museum Tour Guide vjalp@mindspring.com

I grew up on West 82<sup>nd</sup> Street in the 1940s, learned to ride a bike in Manhattan Square, as it then was, and have returned often since, even after moving to Brooklyn as an adult. I have seen the transformation of eroded, dusty, bare earth into a verdant landscape thanks to the partnership of the Museum, the Parks Dept. and the Friends of Roosevelt Park. Since 2008, I have been a Tour Guide for the Museum. The proposed new Gilder Center will be an appropriate and marvelous addition to the Museum, the Park and the entire Upper West Side. The three existing entrances have each represented the best of the architecture of their times. The new one on Columbus Avenue continues that tradition. The present entrance there is a pallid echo of the one on 81<sup>st</sup> Street, but the new façade suitably balances the Roosevelt Memorial on the opposite side, thanks to the use of matching granite from the same quarry. It harmonizes well with the adjacent buildings and its energetic sculptural form proclaims the strength and endurance of the institution.

At the same time, the building is welcoming to visitors and neighbors alike, drawing them inside and involving them immediately in the magic, wonder and excitement of both the contents and the work of the Museum. The multi-level atrium will highlight its scientific and educational missions while providing a grand, new, entrance space to match the classic Roosevelt Rotunda on Central Park West.

From 81st Street, what is now a hodgepodge view of an interior architectural junkyard, will become a unified, powerful presence embodying the energy and vitality of both the Museum and the entire neighborhood.

For local residents and casual passersby alike, the most important improvement may lie in the enhancement of the enjoyment of the park, whether strolling, relaxing, playing or simply enjoying the augmented tranquility of the surroundings. The Museum has listened to the concerns of its neighbors and has significantly improved the design since its first submission, especially in the reduced footprint of the structure and the enhanced layout of the trees, paths and green areas.

For 140 years, the American Museum of Natural History has been an integral part of the park in which it stands. Throughout its growth, it has proved to be a wise steward and good friend to those who live nearby as well as to those who only visit. The new entrance building will carry forward that legacy into the remainder of the 21st Century and well beyond.

From: Carol Ansorge <cha@rcn.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 7:53 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

**Subject:** Protecttion Needed from the AMNH Museum Expansion

Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my alarm at the project to expand the AMNH Museum on Columbus and 79 Street. The loss of parkland in that sweet neighborhood spot – Teddy Roosevelt Park north of 79 street -- would be sorely missed. The crowds that would be introduced would change the tranquil nature of the whole surrounding area with increased crowds and the resulting noise, traffic, non-residential feel, street vendors, garbage, vermin. That's the long-term view. During the construction phase, I'm concerned about the release of toxins and pollutants, noted in the DEIS, and the impact to my lungs and overall health.

We need an advocate for the parkland and community wellbeing, and would hope you would step into that role.

Thank you for your consideration, cha@rcn.com

Carol Ansorge

cha@rcn.com

From: Tom Arata <tom\_arata@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 8:34 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

**Subject:** AMNH Proposed New Gilder Center- Teddy Roosevelt Park

#### Dear Mr. Wells:

This is to state my opposition to the AMNH's ("the Museum") plan to destroy the character of the present Teddy Roosevelt Park ("TR Park"), a NYC Parks Department property, in order to create the planned new Gilder Center on Columbus Avenue at 79th Street.

The Museum's plan must not go forward for the many good reasons presented at the NYC Parks Department meeting on the Draft EIS held June 15, 2017 at the Museum's Lefrak Auditorium, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Elizabeth Conan and Manhattan Commissioner William Castro. I believe you were also present at said meeting.

These reasons include but are not limited to: problems with the Draft EIS; increased traffic, congestion, and debris; the release of toxic materials into the environment; and of course the loss of valuable park land. The many comments in opposition to the plan (which I believe were transcribed by a stenographer at the June 15, 2017 meeting) are incorporated herein by reference.

I am sorry that I do not now have the time to fully express all of my objections to this project. But among them is the fact that I have lived on West 82nd Street between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue for over 40 years and have seen the traffic on my block worsen badly as West 81st Street (at the northern end of the Museum and the entrance to the 79th Street Transverse) becomes more and more choked with coaches and school buses entering and exiting the Museum property. The traffic congestion north of West 81st Street and south of West 77th Street can only be expected to worsen with the construction and completion, if permitted, of the proposed Gilder Center project. And that is to say nothing of the environmental pollution that will ensue -from buses and construction vehicle idling while waiting!

And I have a more personal concern: As I walked through TR Park at twilight a night or two before the June 15 meeting, I noted the sounds of the birds as they settled in for the night. But if the trees are lost, where will the birds go? Much has been made of the loss of the trees, but what of the flora and fauna that the trees support? How can AMNH see as its mission the destruction of an established ecosystem, the very thing that the Museum says that it endeavors to preserve worldwide?

At one time I thought this controversy came down to those who supported the Museum's role and mission as a world-class leader in science education versus those who want TR Park to remain a quiet relaxing backwater of AMNH. Now I see this as a clash of big egos within and without the Museum who want the Gilder Center and the event space it will provide, versus those who care passionately about the parkland that exists in the midst of all this urbanity

I have attended nearly all the meetings held on this issue since November 2015 and I have noted the nearly unanimous opposition of community residents to the Museum's plan. I have not seen or hear Mr. Richard Gilder at any of the meetings I have attended, nor have I seen or heard any of our "elected representatives" who have freely volunteered taxpayers money in support of this project. Where was/is former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who dedicated TR Park at its founding - according to a plaque in the pavement at the West 81st Street and Columbus Avenue park entrance; does he have a position on this issue? What about current Mayor Bill de Blasio, who according to meeting Cary Goodman, could not attend the June 15 meeting despite a personal invitation and an earlier appearance at the Museum?

As many at the June 15 meeting stated, the NYC Parks Department should and must be an advocate for the community and for itself in this important proceeding. Please conduct an impartial analysis of the DEIS submitted by AKRF and do not let the Museum's plan proceed!

Thank you for the opportunity to make this comment. Good luck to you!

Thomas J. Arata 72 West 82 St., Apt, 4F New York, NY 10024

# please save our parks nyc

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:03 AM

Subject	please save our parks nyc
From	Gigi Assante
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 20, 2017 2:57 PM

WE FEEL THAT THE MUSEUM IS LARGE ENOUGH AND PROBABLY HAS A POOR USE OF SPACE AND WE TRULY HOPE YOU

CAN RESPECT THE HUMAN NEED FOR PARKS AT THE MUSEUM FOR QUALITY OF LIFE , AND HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS

FOR SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

**GIGI ASSANTE** 

From: Tim Balboni <tjbalboni@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:48 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park

Dear Owen,

As an Upper Westsiders and resident of New York City, I 100% oppose the addition to the Museum of Natural History that would destroy a portion of Theodore Roosevelt Park, a valuable open space in a very crowded city. Please save and protect this valuable community asset.

Kind regards,

Tim Balboni

From: Greg B <grbee55@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 8:46 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

The AMNH's lack of planning has helped to create a wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems but it is inconceivable that co-opting public parkland is the only solution to the Museum's problems. The architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

Our park land, green spaces and canopy trees are irreplaceable public assets.

I ask that you reject the AMNH's proposal and force them to provide an alternative solution that does not endanger the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Thank you,

Greg Beechler 200 West 79th Street

From: Peter P. Blanchard III <peterblanchard@nyc.rr.com>

**Sent:** Saturday, June 24, 2017 10:59 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: AMNH Expansion

I am writing as a long-time patron and enthusiastic supporter of the American Museum of Natural History. I have chosen to live in this neighborhood (79th and Columbus) because of the Museum. My grandfather, Childs Frick, was a paleontologist ,part of whose work is on permanent display at the Museum.

A plan to destroy even a portion of Theodore Roosevelt Park and to close a good portion of the remainder to accommodate staging for the construction is an abysmal plan. With this project, AMNH will be inevitably emboldened to expand further into the park. As Ellen Futter admitted at a recent meeting, "We have no further plans for expansion at this time."

Dedicated open green space needs to be protected at all costs! Proceeding with the expansion as planned would be a grand and very unfortunate mistake. To cut down old growth trees and demolish a portion of a city park for the enlargement of any institution sets an extremely bad precedent.

My plea to the American Museum of Natural History is summarized by a line from Shakespeare's Hamlet - "to thine own self be true." Live up to the values you champion - protection of natural resources and stewardship of the earth.

Sincerely,

Peter P. Blanchard III 101 West 79th Street, Apt. 30C New York, NY 10024

## **AMNH** expansion

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:12 AM

Subject	AMNH expansion
From	<u>Diana Bloom</u>
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 01, 2017 12:19 PM

The AMNH released its <u>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</u> Thursday, May 18th. This report confirmed our worst fears - hazardous materials ARE contaminating the building site. Elevated levels of Beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents ARE present in both soil and ground water samples. **These toxins are deadly, even in very small amounts!** 

This means that demolishing existing buildings and excavating soil to erect the Gilder Center will represent a real threat to the health, safety and quality of life of our community!

### TIME IS SHORT

PLEASE say NO to this toxic project.

Diana Bloom, Ph.D.

212 799-0720 and 646 269-6586

https://web.archive.org/web/20140911082456/http://mysite.verizon.net/dianabloom/

From: Judith Calamandrei <judithcala@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 10:00 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: American Museum Natural History Incursion into parkland

Dear Mr. Wells,

So many, many reasons not to build the proposed Gilder Center.....basically, the question is: Can anyone walk through the Museum and honestly say there is not enough space within the footprint for science teaching?

I refer you to the *New York Times* article (with photographs) from March 16, 2017 "Thinking Inside the Footprint" showing how three major museums expanded exhibition space without the destruction, disruption and millions-of-dollars cost the Museum is oblivious to.

How ironic is this: today I received an email today from Ms. Louise Adler Director of Development looking for donations "in the name of Science" to reach the Museum's \$400,000 Development Fund current goal!

Let's take a deep breathe and get realistic about this whole project. Yours truly,
Judith Calamandrei
172 West 79th Street
NY Ny10024 tel.212/362-0563

## Lou Gehrig's disease and toxins

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:12 AM

Subject	Lou Gehrig's disease and toxins
From	Paige Cameron
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 01, 2017 11:57 AM

#### Dear Mr. Wells,

I say NO to AMNH's Gilder Center. As a recent purchaser of real estate on 77th street, I am horrified at the prospect of this expansion and outraged that it was not disclosed to me prior to purchasing my property. Had I known I would not have bought in this neighborhood.

The recent confirmation of deadly the toxins and hazards to which we will be exposed are of great concern to me since my father died of ALS and recent studies link genetic proclivity coupled with exposure to chemical toxins as a major risk factor to developing LOU GEHRIG's disease. The appropriation of public park land and the exposure of toxic chemicals and pollution to the neighborhood is a risk too dear for no benefit for the people that live here.

Furthermore, this is UNNECESSARY! There is no compelling need for this expansion and is an over reach of power by those who are working behind the scenes to approve this despite the opposition of the taxpayers of this community. It is a decision that seems in keeping with the current political climate of promoting self interest and greed over a democratic process. It clearly ignores the overwhelming opposition to this project by those who it will affect. YOU ARE ASKING US TO PAY WITH OUR PEACE AND HEALTH FOR THE BENEFIT OF DEVELOPERS AND POLITICIANS WHO WANT THIS TO GAIN PROFIT AND POWER. This is an unfair distribution of wealth and cost that is unconscionable.

There is no reason that the monies allocated to this project could not be used to house the glider center in another already existing historic building. The only reason to pursue this appropriation is to line the pockets and enhance the power of those that will gain from such construction and destruction.

The Natural History Museum was one of the main reasons I bought in this neighborhood, now I can't even look at the building without being disgusted at the warped ambitions of the current stewards and how those ambitions go against the very heart of the mission of what the Museum has stood for since its inception.

You MUST listen to the people who live here. WE DON"T NEED THIS OR WANT THIS. In my view, it is criminal to appropriate park land for the use of a private endeavor no matter what educational label you place on it to justify or cover the greedy motivation behind such an unnecessary waste of resources.

Pleading for you to do the right thing. STOP THIS.

Paige Cameron

From: Candace Carell <ccarell@earthlink.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 12:30 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: Saving Theodore Roosevelt Park

NYC Department of Parks and Recreation The Arsenal, Central Park 830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401 New York, New York 10065

Dear Mr. Wells,

After viewing the new architectural designs for The Museum of Natural History I am shocked this could pass approval. There are so many many things wrong with it. The design looks like The Flintstones Meet Disney!! The Museum of Natural History is NOT A THEME PARK!! After the newness of it and years passing it will be another terrible waste everyone will have to live with.

Among my questions are how will it be cleaned? It is a dust collector; why would anyone allow this horror encroach on something so beautiful where nature, trees, living, breathing animals live and have been living, coming and going over the past 150 years? What GENIUS thinks this is a good idea?

Years ago I met and worked with Margaret Meade at NBC tv. I was on the makeup staff at NBC tv and worked there from 1973 until 1993. I met many many artists, scientists, writers, musicians, writers, all who have made a difference in the world and our lives. She would be so incredibly angry and upset with what is going on. Her Name is there in this enclosure the Museum wants to demolish!! Why is it in this country we tare down, destroy and allow this kind of destruction of our special monuments, Parks and hallowed Historical structures?

I am a 25 year breast cancer survivor. There are serious problems with what is laying underneath in the soil where building could take place. Are you willing to have your NAME, the NAMES of the people who agree to let the building to go forward knowing the gravity what may happen to the environment, lives and children in and around the Museum be named in law suits IF cancer becomes one of the consequences of the new building and destruction of the Theodore Roosevelt Park?

Can you 100% publicly put your name guaranteeing there will be NO RAMIFICATIONS HEALTH WISE OCCURRING because of what takes place in those areas? Are you willing with the others involved going to foot the bills due to health problems in the area??

The Theodore Roosevelt Park is precious!! It is a bastion of what nature does being left alone to thrive. The beautiful trees, hedges, bushes, the plants, flowers, the paths, grass, the dog run, the park benches as well as all the wonders of nature, living and thriving in there are so special to everyone who visits the Museum, those of us who live in and around there, and for the environment, the City and the lives living inside it. Please Please Please DO NOT DESTROY THIS VALUABLE, sacred park.

I understand what fantasy is and have invented it myself. I created the original makeup for CATS the Musical the original 1982 Production on Broadway. I also made the cone heads for SNLive and many many other things in theater, film and television. But everything as you know, passes. People come and go,. Your jobs come and go. There is one CONSTANT and this is our beloved Parks in New York City.

Please be one of the strong pillars to stand by, stand up and KEEP our very very special loved Theodore Roosevelt Park. You will be honored and blessed to help save this jewel.

Yours Very Sincerely,

**Candace Carell** 

From: Anna Carlson <carlsongannett@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 4:58 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: DEIS for American Museum of Natural History expansion 16DPR004M

Dear Mr. Wells,

I write to comment on the EAS/DEIS for the proposed project by the American Museum of Natural History which would expand its footprint into New York City's Theodore Roosevelt Park by about 0.27 acre and affect longstanding community uses of the west side of the Park and its adjoining sidewalk.

I believe most of the Museum's goals can be met with a project that doesn't expand the building footprint and cause adverse impacts on the Park and the neighborhood by creating a major entrance on Columbus Avenue. The DEIS does not adequately address some of the impacts of the current proposal. I hope you will take the inadequacies and omissions into consideration as you consider the conclusions of this DEIS.

I am a supporter of the Museum; I practiced architecture, mainly site planning, urban design and historic preservation; I am a lifelong New Yorker and for 26 years have lived on West 73<sup>rd</sup> Street, five blocks from the the Museum.

My letter focuses on aspects of the EAS/DEIS related to urban design and neighborhood character, which should include the character of community uses of the sidewalk adjoining the Park but are not addressed by the DEIS.

(1) The DEIS does not support either the Museum's goal of developing a project which would "[p]rovide a new entrance that activates the Columbus Avenue side of the Museum" (EAS Full Form p.16 and elsewhere, including in the goals for possible alternate proposals) or the assumption that the addition of a major new entrance is needed or a given positive. The DEIS offers no explanation why another major entrance is needed. In my view not only is a project which requires a major new entrance extraneous to achieve the Museum's goals, it would destroy a valued existing environment.

The improved internal Museum circulation proposed is an exciting goal; this improved East-West circulation and access within the Museum would function just as well without creating a major western entrance presence on Columbus.

The DEIS does not consider reopening the 77<sup>th</sup> Street entrance as a regular public entrance; certainly the impacts there of increased pedestrian and vehicle drop-offs would be much less than on the congested Columbus Avenue side with its complicated traffic patterns, which include bike and parking lanes. And this entrance functions well in many ways, and could be used as a major entry if it this is shown to be needed even after the Museum accomplishes its goal of improved internal circulation. Also, it's design has a lot of character as an inviting and historical entrance.

(2) The DEIS Chapters 6 and 14 ("Urban Design and Visual Resources" and "Neighborhood Character") do not consider the impact of the proposed new major entry on the west side of the Park on longstanding community and cultural uses of the sidewalk adjoining the Park. Without considering these impacts it should not be possible for the DEIS to conclude as it does that the proposed project would have "no adverse effects on the urban design of the project site or study area" or on the neighborhood character of the use of the existing public space behind the Museum.
a) The proposed increase of visitors to this side of the Museum (DEIS Transportation Ch. 9) would have adverse impacts not only on the existing public space in the Park but on neighborhood uses of this side of the Museum such as the weekly Farmers' Market, the annual holiday markets and craft fairs and the holiday tree stands held on those sidewalks.
The proposed creation of an 80' taxi stand on Columbus Avenue would remove valuable parking and set-up area for the Farmers' Market. The widened entrance to the Park would remove numerous spaces for Farmers' stands. The sidewalk behind the Museum is full to capacity on Sundays as it is: adding a new stream of visitors might render the market unfeasible. It would be a big loss to the surrounding community to adversely affect (or possibly destroy) these markets.
The Museum and the DEIS must analyze the impacts of its proposal on all the Community uses of Columbus Avenue, both inside and around the Park. Failure to do so is a major flaw in the DEIS.
b) The shape and design of the proposed approach to the new major entrance would change the character of the existing public space outside the Museum. In place of what now functions as a pleasant "public room," the additional Museum visitor foot traffic would transform a valued public space into a crowded circulation route.
Although the Museum's location in a Park exempts the Museum from obtaining zoning approval from the City, the Museum retains the responsibility to address the related impacts of its proposal to support its conclusion in the EAS Full Form p.7 that its proposal would not cause "substantial alteration to the streetscape or public space in the vicinity of the proposed project."
Since it has not fully analyzed its impacts, the Museum has no evidence to support its conclusion in DEIS Chapter 6 that the proposed changes to Theodore Roosevelt Park would "enhance the visual quality and function and improve the experience of the Museum and park users" and not have a negative impact on the "Neighborhood Character" of the use of Theodore Roosevelt Park.
In addition, I strongly disagree with the use of the statement reiterated throughout the DEIS that because "well-trafficked streets and sidewalks are also well established defining features of the character of the neighborhood," adding more traffic will not have much of an impact. As set forth above, this statement ignores reality to reach an unsupportable conclusion.
3) I generally oppose further building in any of our Parks, even if they are in neighborhoods not considered to be underserved statistically, as in this case. Current Museum visitors have a large impact on the neighborhood and its use of Central Park. Residents and visitors alike need all the quality Park spaces possible. Different park spaces serve different functions; vest-pocket parks within the community are fragile space, whose community values and needs are vulnerable. Just because Central Park is nearby for residents

doesn't give license to diminish a heavily-used and functioning public Park space that they share with Museum visitors and clearly is serving a needed purpose.
4) I question the goal of drawing Museum visitors away from their experience of being introduced to the American Museum of Natural History through the historic main entrance facing Central Park. Isn't preserving the historic function of that entrance one of the goals of historic preservation?
In my view the Museum has submitted an incomplete and misleading DEIS in support of a flawed project.
Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Anna Carlson Gannett
175 West 73 <sup>rd</sup> St., Apt 12F  New York, NY 10023

## AMNH Proposed Expansion - do not support

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:12 AM

Subject	AMNH Proposed Expansion - do not support
From	Elizabeth Carr
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Sunday, June 04, 2017 1:33 PM

#### Hello,

I am writing to express my hope that the Natural History museum project will not proceed.

We have been members of the museum for years and our two children love exploring its exhibits. We value the critical role museums play in our city's cultural life.

However, public, outdoor space is perhaps the most precious commodity in this city and to permit the museum to expand beyond its current (enormous) footprint seems to be a violation of conscience. The projected spike in traffic to 6.4 million visitors is simply unnecessary; the environmental impact from removing the current pollutants buried below the museum is an unnecessary hazard; and the \$135m in tax dollars allocated to this project could be spent in numerous, better, more impactful ways.

The museum should consider making its current operations more efficient, as all space-constrained New Yorkers must do. It should consider moving office space to another location if it needs more space for exhibits. Finally, it should consider building on top of its current footprint. If none of these are viable options, it should consider itself lucky to have control of basically 4 blocks of precious space (W 77 - W 81 between Columbus & CPW).

I urge you not to support this expansion for the sake of all who rely on tiny amounts of green space and the small slices of breathing room that make this city habitable.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Carr

From: Lee Clauss «lee.clauss @gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 8:39 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Cc: Claudia DiSalvo

Subject: Public Comment AMNH

Owen Wells

Director of Environmental Review

New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

The Arsenal, Central Park

830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401

New York, New York 10065

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: <a href="mailto:owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov">owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov</a>

Dear Mr. Wells,

Recently I taped and last night I watched a Channel 13 "Treasures of New York" program about the rails to trails movement. The protectors of our parklands spoke about the importance of creating green parks out of what had been sites of rubble, and about how this is being done all over New York State, to wondrous effect.

The horrifying plan of the American Museum of Natural History to cut down beautiful canopy trees, cannibalize part of Theodore Roosevelt Park—a true treasure of New York—and build there a huge, climate-unfriendly glass and concrete building, a building which is opposed by the entire community, a building that is essentially rubble, runs counter to all the ideals of the growing and vital ecological movement. Please do not let yourself be party to it.

If 11,600 square feet of Theodore Roosevelt Park are destroyed and cemented over to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we will lose a valuable ecosystem that helps promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Allowing our public assets and green spaces to be developed and built upon by private institutions is a trend that must be stopped. You are in a powerful position to stop it. Please do!

Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to a wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only way the Museum can fix those problems.

In fact, the architect for the Gilder Project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly [Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016] that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park.

There seems to be no constructive purpose for this building. The Gilder Center gives lip service to such noble things as science, education and innovation but its purpose seems more intended for flow improvement and private receptions.

Mr. Wells, these are hard times for Americans. Daily we the people watch in horror as a madman of a president tries to cut the country's throat and hack away at its vital organs, all for his own benefit and for the benefit of a few insatiably greedy individuals and corporations. He is being helped to do this by the majority of those who are responsible for checks and balances and should be reining him in, our Government officials. They are helping him because they are corrupt and cowardly, themselves in the pockets of those same individuals and organizations. and will be despised by history.

Do not be like them. This is your opportunity to show that you are neither corrupt nor cowardly, but a courageous public official. Please reject the current Gilder Center Plan.

William A. "Lee" Clauss, III

147 W. 79th Street, Apt. 10D

New York, NY 10024

Deas Oven Wells, Please take into consideration my hearfell objections to The plans for expansion of he AMNH.

Theodore Robertel Park is a long-charded and integral pool of the ULVS and has been, and is used and appreciated by The denicers of save for as

long as I can remember. The very notion of doing away mist Bull Mork Dag Run, he rucen trees and gadens is unsendle. a every respect. Think of at. drangers cleane if noting elde, and ask yarself if we can afford The boss of a single tree. The AMNH is a fine unstitution, ir can do infins The earm Sond. We Convot.



ANDREW CRAFT 101 W. 80' ST. NY, NY 100ZA



American Museum & Natural History 🏗



Central Park West at 79th Street New York, NY 10024-5192

T7449

Original Art by Elizabeth Brownd

## Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	George Work
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 06, 2017 4:07 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Additionally, WE RESENT THE CONSTANT ATTEMPTS TO ALTER OUR HISTORIC NEW YORK PROPERTIES FOR DUBIOUS REASONS. LEAVE OUR IRREPLACEABLE HISTORY ALONE FOR COMING GENERATIONS TO APPRECIATE AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE BY ITS DESIGNERS.

Sincerely,

Michael Scott Cutler

Sent from Outlook

Statement Re: Environmental Impact Study AMNH 6/14/17

I represent Friends of Damrosch Park who, along with Olive Freud's Committee for Environmentally Sound Development, was successful in evicting Fashion Week from Damrosch Park and restoring it to the public. Parks Department was totally complicit in Lincoln Center's taking down 50 healthy trees (and certified as such by Parks' own inspectors) in order to provide Fashion Week a level platform for their iconic tents. Our outraged, small group of park advocates took on Mayor Bloomberg, Parks Department and Lincoln Center and succeeded in throwing out IMG/Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week, the mega billion dollar corporation, five years before their contract was up. It took perseverance and a good lawyer to do that with money we ourselves had to raise to wrest our own public amenity from private entities. Yesterday we learned that Lincoln Center signed a ten year contract with Compass Partners, a for profit investment firm, that took over Big Apple Circus. They will take over this tiny, newly restored Park for four months every year until 2027. Again, a sad loss for park-starved Upper West Siders.

And now this same community, already besieged by overdevelopment and overcrowding, stands to lose more precious parkland. Every incursion into our public parks, no matter how small, by **private** organizations threatens the quality of our lives. The proposed Gilder Center would unquestionably overwhelm this area and destroy one of the most idyllic spots on the Upper West Side. Worse, yet, if Parks gives up even 1/4 acre for AMNH to build this vanity Atrium, it will set a terrible **precedent** for the future of Teddy Roosevelt Park. When will this Museum's land grab end? And when will Parks heed its own Statute 1-07 that calls the destruction of a single healthy tree a crime?

Cleo Dana 212 262 0619 Dear Mr. Wills, Please reget the AMNH proposed expansion. The museum's DETS is in adequat and inthe concreened. Fails to address the needs of om noighforhood. Michellebands 10(W. Soft St. #6E & CEO, The became Review com

## Please Do Not Cut trees in Teddy R. Park

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:12 AM

Subject	Please Do Not Cut trees in Teddy R. Park
From	bob.breakingtherules@gmail.com
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 02, 2017 2:06 PM

Mr Wells,

I ask that you have a look for yourself... It's pandmonium with school buses etc

Also--global warming--The AMNH should not be allowed to expand--it's the exact opposite of "Natural"

Thanks so much, bob Dawson <a href="http://breakingtherules.com/pdf/transofuniv3.pdf">http://breakingtherules.com/pdf/transofuniv3.pdf</a>

Breaking The Rules <sup>®</sup> is an innovative and exciting program designed to promote a new understanding and enjoyment of classical music in order to expedite a positive effect on our culture.

(bob) Dawson, pianist, 212.877.6996 www.breakingtherules.com

From: Terry Dickert <tdickert@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 4:49 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: Comments on draft EIS- Gilder Center

## To NYC Department of Parks and Recreation:

I strongly oppose the American Museum of Natural History's proposed expansion into Theodore Roosevelt Park, its takeover of public parkland, and the removal of mature canopy trees.

The park's tall, leafy oaks and elms are a neighborhood treasure that must be preserved! We have already lost several large trees on the north and south sides of the museum, and many trees in the park and along the surrounding streets are ailing, stressed by drought, and damaged by storms. Just last week, a storm inflicted serious damage on some large trees inside the park. We need to conserve ALL trees in the park, not chop them down! The tall oaks slated for removal by the museum are healthy, resilient, less prone to storm damage, and beautiful in all seasons. They shade the paths and benches, cool and clean the air, block strong winds, buffer traffic noise, and provide habitat for wildlife, including our local hawks. Replacing these seven mature trees with six young canopy trees and 13 understory trees is no consolation for their loss; it will take decades before the saplings provide shade or any other benefits of the old trees. Consider also that a large, healthy tree removes almost 70 times more air pollution each year than a small, newly-planted tree, according to the NYC Parks Dept. website.

I live on West 79th St. and often stroll the winding paths in the park, observing nature and the change of seasons, admiring the trees and plantings, and enjoying a peaceful respite from busy city streets. The tree-lined paths and shady benches provide a quiet setting to enjoy nature and the company of friends. This tranquility would be ruined by years of construction noise and the creation of a major museum entrance on that side of the park, with increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic along Columbus Avenue and on West 79th St. Noise and pollution from traffic and construction would affect not just the park, but the entire neighborhood, adding to the burden from several major building projects already underway or planned within a few blocks from the museum.

The museum's proposal to permit public access Margaret Mead Green would not compensate for its takeover of public parkland for a new building. I am concerned that the area will be overrun with picnickers who leave their Shake Shack and other food vendor remains behind (followed by rats). There are already overflowing garbage bins near benches along W.77th St and Columbus Ave from 77-78th Sts. (Yes, even the big belly trash receptacles are often overflowing.) Public access to Margaret Mead Green would also place further strain on the old elms there, since the soil around their roots would get compacted from all the walking and picnicking. When a section of the Green was opened on a recent Sunday, people were strolling, sitting, and eating right under those trees.

I volunteer for the museum and support most of their initiatives, but not at the expense of public green space and natural resources. Please follow the spirit of Teddy Roosevelt: Preserve this park in its entirety and conserve our much-valued and valuable trees.

Thank you.

Terry Dickert 221 West 79th St. New York, NY 10024

From: John Drayton <drayts@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 10:24 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: Theodore Roosevelt Park

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to urge you to protect our valuable park. We have so little park space in New York City and to permanently loose 11,600 square feet to the expansion of an additional building that can't be replaced is terrible. Surly the Natural History Museum can find other ways to increase exhibit space. Perhaps they could be creative like so many other organizations and move some of their office and research space to nearby buildings. They of all people should set an example of proper stewardship of our land.

I ask you to deny them from reducing the size of the Theodore Roosevelt Park in any way.

Sincerely, John Drayton

John Drayton, | 35 W. 90th Street, #7A, New York, NY, 10024 | H: drayts@aol.com / 212-724-2069

Herbert Dooskin <hpd26@yahoo.com> From:

Friday, June 23, 2017 9:13 AM Wells, Owen (Parks) Sent:

To:

American Museum of Natural History expansion Subject:

I strongly oppose the proposed expansion. We should never surrender an inch of our precious parkland. The Museum, if it needs more space should build up. Don't let the fat cats take our park.

Regards Herb Duke 40 west 77th St

## Museum Expansion

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	Museum Expansion
From	Roxanne Edwards
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Wednesday, June 14, 2017 10:55 AM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my opposition to the Museum of Natural History's proposed expansion. I am a big supporter of the Museum, and I have volunteered there for over 15 years. I am a strong supporter of their mission.

However, in my view, the Museum is violating that mission which, in addition to education, is to preserve the natural environment. Reducing the amount of park space and cutting down 11 mature trees is not consistent with the role the Museum should be advocating. In addition, the noise and disruption as a result of the expansion will have an adverse effect on the quality of life of the neighborhood for years to come.

In my view, it seems that the proposed new atrium entrance does not enhance the education mission, but is seemingly proposed to provide yet more party space. The frequent parties in Hall of Ocean Life and elsewhere already detract from the museum experience.

Respectfully,

Roxanne Edwards 119 West 77th St.

# American Museum of Natural History Proposal for Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:03 AM

Subject	American Museum of Natural History Proposal for Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation	
From	<u>Lorna Escoffery</u>	
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)	
Sent	Tuesday, June 20, 2017 12:54 PM	

#### Dear Mr. Wells,

I'm very concerned about the proposed expansion of the American Museum of Natural History - concerned because the expansion will eliminate a natural resource (a park) and expand the concrete footprint of the museum.

As a visitor to the museum (myself as a child, then taking my children and now my grandchildren) I am appalled at this plan and the disregard for nature that the Museum and Park officials are displaying. How can we as a community support a museum of natural history when it is the museum that is destroying the natural history that surrounds it? This plan makes me rethink my support for the museum and will definitely eliminate my visits there.

I hope the plan is reviewed and a different solution found - a solution that respects a park, the community that uses the park, and the natural world that the American Museum of Natural History aims to discover, interpret and disseminate.

Sincerely,

Lorna A. Escoffery

SuEllen Estey 122 West 75th Street, # 4A New York, NY 10023 212-877-3611 917-363-1919 SuEllenEstey@aol.com JUNE 26th, 2017

Owen Wells
Director of Environment Review
of the New York City Department
of Parks and Recreation.
FAX: 212-360-3450
email:owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

I have resided at 122 West 75th Street, since July 29, 1969.

I am a professional actress and singer who has worked professionally on Broadway, and, regional theater and have done national network SAG-AFTRA commercials. I use Teddy Roosevelt Park, on a daily basis, as my sanctuary from the noise, construction and intense impact of the New York City Environment.

I am, also, one of the Leaders of the West 75th Block Association and I plant the sunflowers on West 75th Street.

I am writing you to voice my passionate opposition to the proposed expansion of the American Museum of Natural History, as put forth in their public statement and documentation at the scoping session held on Wed. April 6th, 2016.

I oppose this expansion on the grounds that it is not needed, that their plan is not sufficiently "thought through" with regard to the consequences of the proposed construction, and, that this project will bring partial demolition of the CITY OWNED "Teddy Roosevelt Park", which is not their property.

I assert the board members of the AMNH have intentionally manipulated and controlled the release of the details of this proposal in such a way, so as to move to this advanced stage of action, without the educated awareness of the members community surrounding the museum and those businesses that will be most affected by their proposal. (The initial meeting was scheduled on Friday, July 2nd. of 2015, the Fourth of July weekend.)

I assert this proposed expansion will irrevocably alter, for the worse, the beloved nature, real estate and gracious ambience of the neighborhood that surrounds the western "super block" of Columbus Avenue, between 77th and 81st streets. This project will also have a far wider effect on the entire quadrant of the Upper West Side from 72nd to 86th street, all along the Columbus Ave. corridor.

At our meeting West 75th Block association meeting, held on April 14th, 2016, I asked Helen Rosenthal to give her specific reasons for her support and, therefore, funding for this project. When pressed, her only response was, in essence, "Anything Neil deGrasse Tyson wants to do, must be a good idea." This is not an exact quote, but, this was the only reasoning she could acknowledge, in that moment. She could put forth no other specifics.

That statement answered the main question in my mind: WHY?

**WHY?** in the midst of an already growing explosion of visitors in our residential neighborhood, WHY? is a proposal to ALTER the entire fabric of the WEST SIDE of the museum "super block" along Columbus Ave. corridor to create a fourth major entrance, designed to accommodate 500,000 visitors a year, a "good idea"?

**Why?** When there is already an existing entrance on 77th which the museum has closed to the public and chosen not to use.

**WHY?** is there a need to spend countless millions of dollars to create a massive, cement structure that will create many environmental issues, and, not be comply with the land mark design of the existing museum. **Why?** 

The basic answer, from my perspective, is " ... because Neil deGrasse Tyson wants this, and, some wealthy donor wants his name on a big Cement building, and the politicians that have agreed to fund this, think it must be a good thing ... because: **Neil deGrasse Tyron wants this**".

I am voicing my "sense" of what, tragically, I fear, is being forced upon us who live in this beautiful neighborhood.

**Please, please...** take the needed time to ask if this project really serves the needs of the residents of the Upper West Side of New York City.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

SuEllen Estey

**Sent:** Sunday, June 25, 2017 7:51 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: American Museum of Natural History Expansion

Dear Sir:

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed expansion of the scope / layout of the Museum of Natural History.

The Museum is an amazing cultural institution. But it sits in the middle of a residential neighborhood - one that already has significant pedestrian, car / truck and bike traffic.

There's a point where further expansion simply doesn't make sense. And given the museum's existing footprint (and number of visitors it currently attracts), we're at that point.

Thank you.

Peter Farnsworth 101 West 81st Street Endicott Building

--

#### **Peter Farnsworth**

**Foxrock Partners** 

Ph. 646.354.0645





From: Pat Fay <patfay1943@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 6:21 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: AMNH Public Comment

PLEASE... do not approve the development proposal without further evidence that this development meets environmental standards.

It seems particularly ironic that Theodore Roosevelt Park is named after a pioneer of public lands.

Patricia C. Fay 215 West 78th St. 10024

Sent from my iPhone

# Theodore Roosevelt Park

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	Theodore Roosevelt Park
From	<u>Lenore Feder</u>
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Sunday, June 18, 2017 9:03 PM

#### Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my deep concerns about construction on the Theodore Roosevelt park. I am currently pregnant and have a one and a half year old, and live directly across from the park at 66 West 77th Street. Construction would add a great deal of noise pollution, in addition to dust and rodents that would be harmful to myself and my son. Please consider this request on behalf of myself and the entire neighborhood.

Best, Lenore Feder

From: Melanie Fisher <melanie.fisher@ps158.net>

**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 2:14 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

**Subject:** Opposition to the Gilder Center Expansion into Theodore Roosevelt Park

#### Dear Owen

I attended the meeting Wednesday, June 15th at the AMNH. This expansion is a sham and is about power and politics but let's get down to your concerns the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS is shoddy. It is incomplete and the mitigation plan that focuses on the construction, traffic (pedestrian and vehicular), health and safety, small business does not meet the test while the community is being impacted by a 3-5 year construction project that will change our neighborhood FOREVER!

The Parks Department must do an independent study to ensure that the Community trusts your motives in ensuring the health and safety of this project. One just has to look at Flint, Michigan and the ramifications of politicians and other officials responsible for thousands of lives who didn't act or perform as leaders. The Parks Department must assume a leadership position not bonded by politicians or museum officials.

I am not anti-museum or anti-museum. I have been a member for years. There would have never been this outcry had the Museum's building plans were kept to their own footprint. As a designer, the plan will not enhance the architecture of the community. Additionally it will be plugged into Con Edison (HVAC). There is no movement to design a LEED platinum building...Where is the alternative energy, solar and wind. This building is a return to days of the brick and mortar of the 20th century. We are living in the 21st Century and the building falls short again to it's commitment to technology and innovation that can be found particularly the CLOUD. I heard someone ask the Museum at an earlier meeting to build the Gilder Cloud. A super idea. As a classroom teacher, the build out of the Cloud would provide global benefits exponentially..

The Museum needs to be stopped. You must stop them with their own document. It is incomplete and is an insult to you and your leaders.

Thank you for your attention to this potentially catastrophic situation that will destroy our Park...I believe that the Parks Department initiative is to save every TREE...I know you will do the right thing and reject it on the chemistry, logistics of transportation, health and safety.

AND I WANT TO SHARE THAT I SUPPORT THE MISSION OF COMMUNITY UNITED TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK.

Sincerely, Melanie H. Fisher 150 W.79th Street New York City, New York 10024 msfishy158@gmail.com

# MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY PROPOSED EXPANSION

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY PROPOSED EXPANSION	
From	Mary Flynn	
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)	
Sent	Thursday, June 15, 2017 2:52 PM	

Do not allow the proposed expansion.of the Museum of Natural History. It will destroy much needed and much used parkland and greenery in a neighborhood in danger of overbuilding and overcrowding. Mary Flynn w80st

# Objections to the Proposed Gilder Center

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject Objections to the Proposed Gilder Cent		
From	Harriet Fried	
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)	
Sent	Friday, June 16, 2017 2:57 PM	

#### Dear Mr. Wells:

I am writing to express my deep objections to the proposed Gilder Center. Throughout New York City, we have more people, more buildings, more traffic, more noise and more trash. What we don't have is more park land.

As an Upper West Side resident for 40 years, I have seen first-hand the huge increase in congestion in the neighborhood that the museum has helped to create and the burden its increased visitors have placed on the area. Neither the city nor the museum are able to address them properly now -- as can be seen from the overflowing trash baskets, the plethora of school buses, the dangerous throngs of people at the subway entrance as the museum closes, and the ever-increasing number of food trucks that have turned part of Central Park West into a polluted, messy outdoor eatery, to name just a few things.

To substitute an over-sized project like the Gilder Center for quiet, protected park land is unconscionable. If the museum wishes to address "circulation deficiencies," it should do so within its existing footprint. If it wishes to expand access to science with additional facilities, it should do so through another location that is not on park land and in an area that can better accommodate the stress of additional visitation.

Some things should remain sacrosanct, and the land that was set aside for Theodore Roosevelt Park is one of those things. The Environmental Impact Statement that was recently prepared reads like a lobbying statement. And I have no doubt that if the museum is successful in seizing park land for its purposes now, it will be back for more in the not-too-distant future. Accordingly, I urge the City of New York <u>not</u> to proceed with this plan.

Sincerely, Harriet C. Fried 40 West 77th St. New York, NY 10024

From: Judy Frisk <judyfrisk@me.com>
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 5:45 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: Re: AMNH Gilder Proposal

Re: AMNH Gilder Proposal

## **Question:**

Please explain how the proposal fits with The NYC PARKS DEPARTMENT *Mission and Vision Plan* and *High Performance Landscape Guidelines*? Especially regarding what you refer to as:

"... ensuring that our parks clean our air and absorb storm water, reduce the urban heat island effect, provide habitat, and address the challenges of climate change."

#### **Question:**

What data was collected to arrive at the DEIS's recommendation that when Theodore Roosevelt Park is unusable due to construction noise and pollution, park users can go to instead Central Park? The following considerations should be taken into account in a proper study:

On Heat Advisory and Air Quality Alert Days, the young, the senior citizens, and those with health issues should NOT be required to go so far from home just to get some restful time in a quiet park. Many people cannot 'hike' that far even in the best weather.

People in wheel chairs and people with children in strollers, or even with young ambulatory children should NOT be required to face the more dangerous and difficult crosswalks at Central Park West.

How much extra time does it take to get to an appropriate spot in Central Park? Note that many busy people use benches in Theodore Roosevelt Park for a QUICK break so they can read the paper, bring food from just across the street, and get back to work.

There are no nearby rest rooms in Central Park, compared to Theodore Roosevelt Park. Would they be provided for the people forced to relocate out of Theodore Roosevelt Park?

Sent from my iPhone

From: William Gannett <wbg1952@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, June 25, 2017 6:23 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

**Subject:** AMNH Gilder Center Proposal

I have lived in the Upper West Side at 175 West 73 Street for 30 years and am writing you to object to the American Museum of Natural History's Gilder Center proposal. I have two principal reasons to oppose the project - the increased traffic and congestion on Columbus Avenue and the callous disregard of the project for the existing Sunday Farmers' Market on Columbus Avenue between 77th and 81st Street.

Even the Museum recognizes the terrible effect of their proposal on traffic and congestion, acknowledging that "[b]ecause existing traffic and pedestrian conditions are already congested at times and susceptible to worsening in service levels, even small increases in traffic and pedestrian levels could result in significant adverse impacts." For 17 years my children attended school on 91st Street and Columbus Avenue and often (although not always) walked home along Columbus Avenue. The congestion caused by an additional entrance on Columbus Avenue would have rendered this trip more dangerous. The Museum has an entrance on CPW which they have used for many years. There is no reason to cause a significant deterioration of their neighbors' quality of life.

For many years, there has been a year-round Sunday Farmers' Market on the east side of Columbus Avenue between 77th and 81st Streets. I could not find any textual or pictorial reference to the Farmers' Market in the DEIS - although such a reference may be in there. Needless to say, the new entrance would wreak havoc with the numerous community members (like my family) who shop there for a significant part of our diet.

For these reasons - as well as a firm belief that parkland should not be handed over to private interests at the expense of the public - I hope that you will reject the ill-conceived proposal made by the Museum.

William B. Gannett 175 West 73 Street, Apt. 12F New York, NY 10023

wbg1952@gmail.com

# american museum of natural history

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:12 AM

Subject american museum of natural hist	
From	Allis Ghim
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Sunday, June 04, 2017 4:02 PM

#### Hi Owen,

My name is Allis and I'm writing to you to let you know that I am adamantly against destroying the park next to the AMNH. While I haven't lived in the neighborhood for that long, one of the reasons I love this neighborhood is b/c of the park by the American Museum of Natural History. I live on 79th street and if this goes away, it will vastly change the neighborhood including the farmers market that comes every weekend, and I know that park has been an urban refuge for many who live in the area as well as those that come from all over to visit the museum and our city. In addition, the environmental dangers of excavating the park will be harmful to those living in the area.

Please do not allow the destruction of a beautiful park. We do not need to build more concrete.

Allis

From: Missi Email <mmg25w@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2017 12:27 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

As a long time West Side resident, I have watched Theodore Roosevelt Park change from a bottle-ridden and unwelcoming space into a lovely and peaceful park where neighbors, visitors, mothers with children and others can sit or stroll and enjoy this beautiful park. Please help to preserve this much needed bit of greenery in a city that needs such special places.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely, Melissa Gibbs

Sent from my iPhone

From: Paula Glatzer <paularg135@icloud.com>

**Sent:** Friday, June 23, 2017 2:02 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

**Cc:** Gale Brewer, News & Events; Linda Rosenthal; Helen Rosenthal

**Subject:** AMNH new building - NO!

Owen Wells

Director of Environmental Review, NYC Parks

A big addition to the Museum of Natural History is like the emperor's new clothes. A small group of powerful people want it, and everyone else thinks it's crazy.

No one needs more AMNH. People go, with or without children, and choose areas to visit, because the whole is too big. At the recent public hearing, people said this again and again. Not to mention the Planetarium.

THE MUSEUM DOES NOT USE ALL ITS SPACE. The presenters kept talking about a new entrance. But there is a grand entrance on 77th Street, which is closed. And the great entrance hall, which famously held a huge Native American canoe (with paddlers) is empty!!! Another big hall, at the subway entrance, is also not used.

I could go on. Only a few years ago, AMNH built an addition with a new entrance on Columbus Avenue at 79th Street! Not to mention the completely rebuilt Planetarium. The multi-story atrium in the Gilder is the giveaway for ego and wasted space. An architect who specializes in utilizing existing museum space calls it "public grandiosity."

It is competely irresponsible for New York City to spend a penny indulging a donor's desire to have his name on an unnecessary building. Speaker after speaker asked the City to leave their neighborhood in peace, to save the small park, and to give the money to the public schools, or build an educational center in a neighborhood that doesn't already have several, including a Children's Museum.

Paula Glatzer

215 W. 78th Street

New York NY 10024

cc. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President

Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal

Councilmember Helen Rosenthal

From: Betsy Goldberg <betsypainter9@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 10:59 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks) Subject: Your building Plan.

Mr. Wells,

I've read preliminary plans for the new structure planned. While as a former teacher, I appreciate the educational goals and the advantages that the center would offer, it seems to me that the preservation of all of the small green space of the park is more important in the long run. You are a unique institution, loved by me since childhood, but your title includes NATURAL HISTORY. The Natural is, at this time, what we need to preserve on our overcrowded island. I believe it far outweighs the increased, if not footprint, then use of the resources that pollute, strain, crowd this elemental space, air, ground, and the experience of space, freely moving in it, for all of is; a more important reality for well being than any alternate use

Thank you for your attention,

Betsy Goldberg

Betsy Goldberg betsygoldberg.com 212 932 0784 From: carygood@aol.com [mailto:carygood@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2017 3:24 PM

To: Carygood@aol.com

Subject: New Parks Plan - Old Parks Politics

Dear friends, neighbors, park protectors -

Yesterday the Parks Department issued a document called a 'final scope of work' for the museum's proposed expansion into Teddy Roosevelt Park. This document outlines the museum's goal of constructing a gigantic, fossil-fueled building in our public park.

The scope is comprised of three elements:

- · Revisions to the draft scoping document they issued a year ago.
- An appendix with the comments and suggestions made by those who attended the scoping session last April 6 and others who sent remarks by mail or email.
- Parks Department responses to those comments.

There are a few important developments in the new scope. Among them:

- The study-impact area has been extended north to **W. 86th Street**; south to 72nd Street; and west to **Broadway.** This means thousands more neighbors, scores more stores and hundreds more buildings may be effected by noise, congestion and pollution if the project goes forward.
- The study continues to hold on to outdated methodologies. The traffic portion, for example, **doesn't include Sunday** and only measures the extra load on the transit system before the museum opens at 10 AM, not when thousands of museum-goers arrive.
- The overload on emergency services is ignored. **Only residents are counted** against the staffing of firehouses, police stations and hospitals. Since the museum-goers are only in the neighborhood 'temporarily', their presence is not factored into the safety equation.
- The socioeconomic fallout from the construction and a new building has been dismissed. No small business surveys or studies of closings will be conducted.
- Alternative energy sources are still only, "under consideration." They have not been incorporated into the final scope.
- All the information, projections and assumptions about crowds, interior space utilization and special events held at night are based on the museum's calculations. **No independent consultant sources** are used.
- No construction cost estimates, ongoing operation costs or maintenance costs -- all of which will be publicly funded -- are given. Those are considered outside the scope's realm. However, current estimates of heating-ventilating-cooling costs are roughly \$15 \$20 million per year.

There are two VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THE NEW SCOPE:

- Because of our testimony and research, a **Greenhouse Gas Analysis** must and will be conducted to establish the pollution potential of this proposal. The original scope ignored this issue.
- Alternatives to the plan are identified including off-site deployment of staff and an off-park new building.

Will you join with me in helping to convince our elected officials to abandon this toxic plan and explore an alternative site?

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You can: write the **Mayor**, write the **Governor**, contact **Senator Serrano** or **Assemblywoman Rosenthal**. Since the museum has received both city and state funding, approval by both levels of government is required.

Finally, you can make a contribution to our campaign at: <a href="https://www.nycvotes.org/">https://www.nycvotes.org/</a> campaigns/663/contributions/new

Lets get rid of this misguided plan once and for all.
SAVE OUR PARK,
Cary
**************************************

transmission and delete the message without copying or disclosing it.

# Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center		
From	Richard Grausman		
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)		
Сс	Tim Zagat; Tim Zagat		
Sent	Monday, June 12, 2017 6:36 PM		

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my deep concern and great opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment. This does not take into consideration what additional damage will be done to the neighborhood if the project is completed.

A number of years ago, when the last expansion was done, the museum promised to find a solution to traffic problems caused by school busses. A solution was never found and with the new expansion, increased congestion, pollution and traffic will make the neighborhood impossible to navigate. It should be proven that the present traffic problems can be solved before allowing the project to go any further.

Sincerely, Susan & Richard Grausman

27 Years of Transforming Lives Through Culinary Arts

Richard Grausman
Founder & Chairman Emeritus
C-CAP

Home: 15 West 81st. Street, NYC, 10024

http://www.ccapinc.org/

From: Eleanor Haas <eleanor@thecalyxgroup.com>

**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 4:59 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

**Subject:** proposed American Museum of Natural History landgrab

Hi,

I've lived on West 79<sup>th</sup> St. between Columbus and Amsterdam for more than 30 years, and I cherish "my" special park. The City spends millions to simulate neighborhood parks like this a pocket of nature embedded in the community. This one is already here at no cost to build, with ancient trees that we love. For an institution of "natural history" to destroy a natural park – perhaps tomorrow's natural history – is unnatural, contradictory. For a building embedded as part of a residential neighborhood to think of itself as above, beyond and outside of its community is unthinking. For an institution to rely on not-for-profit service to destroy an ecosystem and environment beloved and needed by thousands of people whose dollars it solicits suggests serious issues of management competence. It's just plain stupid.

We will be harmed by this. Harmed by more tourists in our neighborhood, on the Columbus Ave side of the museum, now our quiet corner of public land, while the tourists crowd around the Central Park West side. Harmed by years of noisy, polluting construction and dangerous equipment.

The building is gigantic. It has no right to take our public land for its own political and other purposes. Please exercise your responsibility for our well-being and stop this museum land grab.

Sincerely yours,

Eleanor

\_iCai

Eleanor Haas, Managing Director The Calyx Group, LLC 212.421.5257

www.TheCalyxGroup.com

BLOG: www.Thought-Waves.com

June 25, 2017

Owen Wells Director of Environmental Review New York City Department of Parks and Recreation The Arsenal, Central Park 830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401 New York, New York 10065

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: <a href="mailto:owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov">owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov</a>

Dear Mr. Wells.

I live on Amsterdam and West 80<sup>th</sup> and visit Theodore Roosevelt Park with my dog at least three times a day. I purchased an apartment on this block in the spring of 2015 in large part because of its close proximity to the Museum of Natural History, park, dog run and tranquil tree-lined street. I strongly believe the whole Upper West Side—the most densely populated part of Manhattan—will be negatively impacted by vastly increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic if the Gilder Center is constructed.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) acknowledges that, "Because existing traffic and pedestrian conditions are already congested at times and susceptible to worsening in service levels, even <a href="mailto:small">small</a> increases in traffic and pedestrian levels could result in <a href="mailto:significant">significant</a> adverse impacts." Additionally, the DEIS states, "The AMNH will see an incremental increase of approximately 745,000 people annually."

Thanks to bike lanes, existing parking spots, and double-parked trucks unloading, the two major Upper West Side arteries, Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues, have been reduced to mostly two lane streets. I have almost been hit by bikes with my dog on more than one occasion crossing Columbus. The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park are unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

The Museum would like us to believe the problem can be easily mitigated by the simple, inexpensive and expedient signal changes and a widened crosswalk. If this were true, why hasn't the MTA done these things already? Wider crosswalks and re-timed signals can't deal with the traffic we already have, let alone congestion problems during the five years of construction and afterward.

I implore you to reject the application for this ill-conceived, unwanted 'mammoth vanity' project, which expects the UWS community to sacrifice its health and general well-being in exchange for little more than an expanded exhibition space, paid for by my own tax dollars.

Thank you.

Sara Hale 186 W. 80<sup>th</sup> St. Apt. 3B New York, NY 10024

# AMNH expansion project

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	AMNH expansion project
From	Margaret Harbaugh
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 15, 2017 7:06 PM

Please, please, can the south side of Theodore Roosevelt park along W 77 St be opened for walk throughs, from Columbus Avenue to Central Park West?

This simple change would be so welcome and beneficial for the UWS community and all our visitors.

Margaret Harbaugh

From: Beth Harris <beth236@live.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 9:28 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: AMNH Expansion

Dear Mr. Wells,

As a resident of the UWS, I am writing to protest the proposed expansion of the American Museum of Natural History. I am concerned about the environmental impact of the development, with the release of toxins in our area, the loss of parkland, the increase of traffic and congestion on the UWS, and the potential for an increase of crowds, vermin and trash around the museum. The present Theodore Roosevelt Park is a very pleasant enclave of peace and serenity in our busy neighborhood and I would like to see it stay that way.

I have noted the many museum renovations that NYC has experienced over the last decades and I do not feel they enhance the museums in any significant way. Once the initial boost of curiosity has passed, I imagine that the museum attendance goes back to what it was before millions of dollars were spent. In our case, the impact on our neighborhood would be significant and not for the better. No doubt, there are many better uses for the money that would be used for the expansion.

Sincerely yours, Elizabeth Harris

# Richard Gilder Center

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject Richard Gilder Center	
From	fredwinnie@yahoo.com
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Monday, June 12, 2017 8:02 PM

Just this month I moved to W 80th Street, a major draw for me is the Park at the Museum. I have already been going there to read and enjoy the relative quiet and shade.

I protest the plan for disruptive construction and loss of parkland. There are more than enough buildings already. I am also concerned about the waste of energy to heat, cool, maintain an enormous atrium. Please respect the people in the neighborhoods nearby.

NYC needs to keep all parkland.

I regret I cannot attend the June 15 meeting.

Yours truly,

Winifred Hedlund

Sent from my iPad

# AMNH expansion

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:12 AM

Subject AMNH expansion	
From	Richard Huber
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 02, 2017 2:58 PM

I am writing you Mr. Owen as a close neighbor of the Museum of Natural History (I can see the Columbus Ave. side of the museum from my front stoop).

I feel that many of my neighbors are behaving in a totally irrational manner in so fanatically opposing the expansion.

From what I can see from a careful review of the proposal it is tastefully designed, interferes minimally with the landscape of the park surrounding the museum, and will appear more harmonious with the main building than the rough stuccoed back wall that is now visible from the street.

I often wonder why we New Yorkers feel compelled to oppose every attempt of our great institutions to make even the smallest modifications to their physical plant. It results in significant additional expense that could be so much more productively be channeled into the good work done by these institutions.

Roberta & Richard Huber 139 W. 78<sup>th</sup> St. 212 496-7851

# Weirder Expansion

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject Weirder Expansion	
From	Paul Hyman
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 15, 2017 5:55 PM

#### Dear Director Wells.

SHAME. SHAME, for those (hopefully not YOU) who would honor the unbridled ego of a man who has made his fortune RAPING our dear Mother Earth and polluting our AIR. Maybe it's not *your* Mother Earth, but' it's MINE.

And you expect us to pay for this ????

If this disaster goes through, I suggest you rename the Museum.

# "The American Museum of UN-Natural History."

PAUL HYMAN
PHP Realty Services, LLC
NY State Licensed Broker
paul.hyman@phpnyc.com
(917) 208-7485
www.phpnyc.com
Member REBNY

From: Leatha < lthjones@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 5:13 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: AMNH Expansion

Dear Mr. Wells,

After talking with some neighbors of the Museum of Natural History I'm disappointed to hear of the possible expansion of the museum. I think it's a very unwise and irresponsible proposal for many reasons. Please reconsider and save the park that's already there.

Best, Leatha Jones

Sent from my iPhone

From: Regina Karp <karpwest@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 5:01 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

**Subject:** Stop the Museum of Natural? History from building on public parkland.

The AMNH is on the wrong side of history regarding their effort to grab public green space. Shame on an institution that purports to care about the environment.

From: ELIZABETH <PARULA@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 8:39 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: AMNH Gilder Center DEIS

Dear Mr. Wells:

This is my first time commenting.

TR Roosevelt park has the most and oldest trees around the museum.

As a 50 year resident at 78th and Amsterdam, I have seen increased housing density with the new high rises, leading to congestion on the streets and sidewalks. The park should not be

<u>decreased</u> as planned. The destruction of trees and tranquility will be a great decrease to the quality of life in the neighborhood.

Expanding the museum's service brings in more visitors and congestion generally. The expanded use of Columbus Avenue as a major entrance is unnecessary and will endanger bike lane users and pedestrians and commercialize the entrance area.

The hulking modern design conflicts with the museum's other elegant architecture and will uglify the Park.

Thanks for taking my comments.

Elizabeth Klaber 173 West 78 St. - 5E New York, NY 10024

## Musa Train Klebnikov 130 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10024

Mr. Owen Wells
Director of Environment Review
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401
New York, NY 1065
owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

June 6, 2017

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am an Upper West Side resident and have followed the proposed expansion of the MNH into the Roosevelt Park with attention. Having gone to architecture school and worked in urban design I have seen how project get momentum and start to grow but, if they have fundamental flaws, have to go back for some rework. It has been gratifying that some adjustments the Gilder Center have been agreed upon but that does not constitute a by in of the whole concept by the rest of the community, and I hope does not sway you from having good judgment. The museum wanting the land and uses they propose does not mean that they are entitled to it.

While it is admirable that the MNH wishes to refresh and improve itself especially in light of the number of visitors it now receives, there is a fair bit of truth bending in the whole presentation that has been made so far. The arguments that they have to save the world by creating a major entrance on 79<sup>th</sup> Street, and need to accommodate more visitors there are both a logical fallacy. The more unspoken intent, of creating a highly visible donor trophy and party space, is not honestly examined, but excused away by circulation "needs". The museum can improve circulation in many different ways, there is not just the current layout.

While capturing big donation money tends to be an institutional priority, allowing for show off buildings in public spaces in not a civic goal. Furthermore, pushing for a major entrance smack in a public park and encourage visitors to arrive through a very congested street scape is just blockheaded given that there is a vastly underused existing grand entrance just around the corner, and an enormous amount of unused public space. Why not revise the function of the 77<sup>th</sup> Street parkland?

The DEIS does not explore using West 77<sup>th</sup> Street as the canvas upon which the museum can design a better entrance for visitors. This alone makes the DEIS alternative options a false list - because they don't include the upgrading of the 77<sup>th</sup> Street entrance, and

tying that into a refurbished inner corridor system. How can anything be more obvious than making better use of a magnificent existing entrance plaza and interior space? What could be more in keeping with the museum's history and stated goal of being ecological and low footprint? Frankly the unused parkland on 77<sup>th</sup> Street could be made more accessible for people wishing to eat lunch or gather and wait. Evening drop offs wont cause a traffic jam as it is a fairly underused street.

The street on 77<sup>th</sup> street alongside the museum does not have anything like the traffic, on Columbus with a well-used bicycle lane, mid avenue street parking, a beloved Farmer's Market and compost center, as well as Craft Fair and other events. Both sides of Columbus around 79<sup>th</sup> now often have double parking due to visitor buses as well as all the, car and truck traffic from being a major city artery. On weekends this a happy maelstrom and could not survive additional traffic, and during the week school groups would further clog up the Avenue, and of course take away the peaceful neighborhood use of the park.

Finally I would like to say that having a big party space on West 79<sup>th</sup> Street, bright lights at night, would be deeply disturbing to the quiet family neighborhood and really not be more than a self interested taking of our green space and peace. It would alter the character and use of the area day and night and I am not persuaded it is the only way to achieve the great good, just the loudest.

Sincerely,

Musa Klebnikov

From: mak221@aol.com

**Sent:** Saturday, May 20, 2017 12:28 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: STOP THE TOXIN RELEASE FROM TR PARK. STOP GILDER CENTER

Dear Mr. Wells,

Like all of my neighbors, I am deeply opposed to the Gilder Center ruining designated park land.

You have no right to inflict toxins onto a neighborhood filled with children.

BTW, THE SNOWFLAKES AT AMNH SHOULD GET OUT OF THEIR CASTLE AND ESTABLISH THE GILDER CENTER IN THE BRONX, WHERE IT'S REALLY NEEDED. LOTS OF LAND AND WELCOMING NEIGHBORS.

SHAME ON ANYONE WHO SUPPORTS THIS PLAN BY AN INSTITUTION WITH david koch ON ITS BOARD. YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN.

Thank you for reading. We are not giving up.

Mark A. Koppel NY

From: mak221@aol.com

**Sent:** Sunday, June 25, 2017 5:32 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: Save TR Park

Dear Owen,

You know the drill. You know all the reasons why Gilder Center is wrong.

Can we have some integrity in NY or are you in the hands of Big Money too?

Do the right thing.

Gilder Center in The Bronx where it belongs.

Thanks

Mark

Mark Koppel

NY

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

# Stop the assault on Theodore Roosevelt Park

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:12 AM

Subject	Stop the assault on Theodore Roosevelt Park
From	mak221@aol.com
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 06, 2017 4:02 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to demand the end of the destruction of Theodore Roosevelt Park by the greedy and grasping AMNH.

If they really want to help disadvantaged children, put the Center in The Bronx where the children are.

Thank You.

Mark A. Koppel, Ph.D. New York

Professor Emeritus of Psychology Montclair State University

From: Kevin Kovesci «kkovesci@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 3:47 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: Museum of Natural History expansion

I write to express my concern over the Museum's plans to expand into the park area surrounding the Museum.

If the museum needs more space, why not create an annex in another NYC borough, so that more NYC residents can easily see what the museum has to offer? It will also enhance other NYC neighborhoods outside Manhattan.

Why take away more precious green space? As I understand it, a dozen old growth trees will be cut down to accommodate the expansion. As the leader of NYC parks, this alone must be disturbing to you.

While I'm addressing trees, why have none of the old grown trees recently lost in other areas of the Museum park not been replaced? There have been at least 5 trees cut down or that fell down during Sandy that haven't been replaced. Why not? Is the Museum thinking they'll take that space for a building, too? Any why do they not mow? Or weed wack the tall weeds around the fences.

I could address the toxic waste that will be disturbed during construction, but my guess is that others are making it a focus of attention.

I ended my annual membership to the Museum since they announced this plan, and have not returned since. I do use the park daily, and will protest any effort to damage it.

Kevin Kovesci 124 W 79th

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: llake4@nyc.rr.com

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2017 8:10 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: Park near American Museum of Natural History

I urge that you stop plans to alter the Museum of Natural History and its park. We need every tree, every grassy space, all the plants. The West Side will be permanently harmed by the loss of this park area. I am greatly concerned that the park will become an adjunct to Shake Shack.

With much urgency, yours truly, Linda Lake 317 West 87th Street

## Gllder Center

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	Gilder Center
From	Ionadiva@aol.com
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Monday, June 12, 2017 5:28 PM

## To Whom It May Concern:

We write to you as long time Upper WestSiders.

We love our Museum of Natural History

but we love our Park.

We strongly oppose the building of The Gilder Center which would cause us to lose loss of our Parkland and Beautiful trees.

Nature has been so good to us sharing it's beauty in a world that is losing so much of it. More Construction & More Machinery.

Less clean air and more noise.

We urge you not to go ahead with this project.

Sincerely

Barbara & Marko Lampas

W.. 85th St 10024.

# Richard Gilder Center

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	Richard Gilder Center
From	<u>Lee Larson</u>
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 13, 2017 11:17 AM

#### Dear Owen Wells

I have been a resident of West 85 St for over 40 years. The Museum of Natural History has played a big part in life here first for me as a single person, then for my children and now for my grandchildren—truly a wonderful attraction for me, family, visitors and friends. I have watched the many changes over the years and noticed that with all improvements (and a higher number of children on the Westside) the old dusty dark and frequently empty museum is gone. It has been replaced with a truly remarkable cultural institution. For that I give thanks to the staff, board and leadership of the museum. I remember when Ellen Futter was named to head the institution and I have followed her many achievements with applause. And now, finally, there is to be a Gilder Center for Science, Education & Innovation and I am thrilled. The plan is much needed. Yes we will have more visitors to the neighborhood and yes we will have construction(for learning not \$million\$ luxury housing) and yes some empty park land will be lost. But the rewards so outweigh the inconveniences. I know that most meetings are attended by naysayers with negative thoughts. I am so proud of the Museum and its plan but I try to avoid negativity especially in the evening. So, I will be anxious to hear that what I hope to be final approval is completed. I cheer you all and thank you for the foresight to support our future which always begins with the education of the next generation.

My best to you Lee Larson

From: Paul Lashin <paul@prestigeequipment.com> <Paul@prestigeequipment.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2017 1:55 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: Gilder Center - AMNH Expansion

Dear Mr. Wells,

On behalf of many of my neighbors, I would like to voice my opinion – in favor – of the Gilder Center expansion. We believe that this will be a great benefit to the neighborhood and my family and I are looking forward to visiting the addition once it is completed. I truly hope that the voices of a few opponents of this project won't delay it or stop it entirely.

Thank you, Paul



Paul Lashin Vice President 35 Pinelawn Rd, Suite 203W Melville, New York 11747

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From: Sam Leff <leffwrite@sprintmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 3:55 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

**Subject:** Re: video of traffic congestion with ambulance

From: Sam Leff

Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 5:54 PM

To: Gale

Subject: video of traffic congestion with ambulance

**Dear Commissioner Wells:** 

I am copying a video sent to Gale Brewer, of W. 79th St& Amsterdam congestion that we just happened upon while treating ourselves to lunch at Nice Matin a week ago,

It was past time for showing the AMNH school bus contribution to the chaos, which is has been enormous since they took away the outdoor school bus parking lot when they tore down the Landmark Hayden to be resolved.

You have already heard the eloquent pleas of the community, so I won't repeat them.

As you have heard, this community is crying out for protection from the rampaging egos that the Trump era has released from

the dark hidden corners they have been hiding in-- as they manipulated the levers of power in their twisted self-indulgent interests.

The government of the city has the power to control these outrages. If it does not exercise it, this community will surely go to court to make its will heard.

Please use your powers to guard the community you were appointed to serve.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Leff

Hi Gale,

I just sent you video that I spontaneously made while sitting outside at Nice Matin.

This mess is an everyday occurrence and is going to be multiplied by two or three or more if AMNH gets to do its unnecessary, ill-conceived, community destroying, project—that is being projected as a whim for Ellen Futter and her cohort Neil de Grasse Tyson--At our last community meeting...you probably had someone there, Helen Rosenthal was quoted as answering a question re: why are you supporting this project? "Because Neil wants it."

Neil also wanted to destroy the Landmark Hayden, for the same alleged "scientific" reasons—changes that Chicago's Adler made for about 12 million dollars of interior renovation + a new 3\$ million Zeiss projector—which upgraded the star show—which was the only real "scientific" reason for the change.

New York spent 230 million dollars to destroy a perfectly lovely landmark all for the purpose of the Rose family getting a huge tax write-off and their name on the building...An identical process that is now being played out to the extreme detriment of the local community for the Gilder fortunes.

Aside from the black tie benefits of a nice new Museum ballroom for Ellen Futter and her friends, AMNH has become the go-to place for real estate money laundering—a perfectly appropriate set for the Age of Trump.

If you really believe their malarkey about the "scientific reasons" for this project, I will send you a nightly visit from the ghosts of Margaret Mead and Franz Boas to tell you otherwise., embellished by fascinating talking skulls of Australopithicus, Homo Erectus, Neanderthal and Cro Magnon.---plaster casts of which could purchased for every New York City school for a tiny tiny fraction

of the City funds that are being allocated for this unbelievably awful project.

I do hope you, at least, had a representative at the last draft EIS meeting, 6/15 at AMNH, The community people were eloquent in their diverse multifaceted critiques of the proposed project—it made you love your neighbors—more than a hundred of them, and hate the forces that are trying shove this down the throats of your old district even more.

Your old friend, consultant, and supporter,

Sam

From: Betty Lerner <br/>
Sent: Betty Lerner <br/>
Friday, June 23, 2017 11:20 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: SAVE OUR PARK

175 West 79th Street 11D New York, NY 10024 June 22, 2017

Owen Wells- Director of Environmental Review New York City Department of Parks and Recreation The Arsenal, Central Park 830 Fifth Avenue Room 401 New York, NY 10065

Dear Mr. Wells,

This letter is asking you to reject the proposal of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) to add yet another grandiose entrance. In the AMNH push to expand the Gilder Center into Theodore Roosevelt Park we again face a choice of private vs. public use of scarce land. Like the objections raised by residents to Robert Moses' plans in the 1930s to put a road through Inwood Park, or in Central Park women with baby carriages and toddlers stopped workmen from cutting down a grove of trees to build a parking lot. Residents of the Westside spent 3 and ½ hours on June 15, 2017 telling you and other public officials why the proposed expansion of the Gilder Center should be stopped.

Again, the choice is between public use of land, which functions for many residents as a front or back yard, as well as a place of refuge in a busy city and private plans to build the Gilder Center that would contribute little to the museum other than an unnecessary additional huge atrium entrance.

Instead of a gratuitous use of scarce public space valued by residents, Mr. Gilder would do better to spend his money in an under-served area where residents would applaud rather than criticize the decision. Public monies should not be used for buildings rejected by the neighborhood.

On behalf of my many neighbors, I urge you to review the environmental impact decision on the soil, the air, traffic, and the noise pollution that will stymie our quality of life for decades ahead in addition to the strong objections raised by nearby residents for whom the park provides a valued outdoor space in short supply in our city.

Please stand proudly with us and protect our majestic 100-year old trees, our environment, the
air we breathe, and the tiny slice of tranquility that we have this over populated neighborhood
that we call home, rather than with Mr. Gilder and his determination to destroy our public park
for his own gratification.

Sincerely,

Betty Lerner

From: M.C. Marden <mcmarden@mac.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 4:28 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: Theodore Roosevelt Park

Mr. Wells, I am writing to you to express my opposition to the building of the Gilder Center at the Museum of Natural History. My main concern is the park that will be diminished in this building process. Some trees might be saved but because of all the digging and construction being done, and because of the length of time it will take, all or most of the beautiful trees in this area of the park will probably die. And that section of the park will no longer be a part of my everyday life. I walk through that area daily. I enjoy the quiet, the trees and gardens, and seeing the children who enjoy all that the park offers.

I am greatly concerned by the health hazards that have been reported. Please do not subject the people in this neighborhood to the health hazards that will become a reality as soon as the digging begins. Leave well enough alone and find a location that will not jeopardized our health. No matter how much people say that it will be all right, it won't be. And unfortunately, as you heard at the recent meeting, sadly the Museum did not honor any of the promises made to the neighborhood when the Planetarium was rebuilt. Why will they honor their assurances now?

I also do not look forward to what will happen to my neighborhood (West 78th between Amsterdam and Columbus) when the work is going on. We have just lived through

(almost) the renovation of the Evelyn on the corner of Columbus and 78th and the disruption has gone on for years. Large trucks. Construction noise. Dirt. Dumpsters and garbage hauling carts in the streets. Noise and disruption for years and this is only a revamped building. And they attempt to keep it orderly.

Columbus Avenue will become a new home for street vendors, garbage, smoke, crowds.

And perhaps the worst: RATS. This area will be overrun by rats. These are filthy, disease carrying rodents that will be stirred up and move to the residential buildings in this area. They now carry a newly discovered disease, sometimes fatal to dogs, known as Leptospirosis. I don't look forward to finding them all over my block.

No promises are likely to be kept by the Museum. There is no way to hold them to their accountability.

Please let them find an area that will welcome this classroom. That's as it should be. Too many people on the Upper West Side are against the idea. I can find no reason to welcome it.

Thank you for your time. M.C. Marden

From: Anne McFrederick <amcfrederick@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2017 11:26 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: NO GIANT AMNH ENTRANCE ON COLUMBUS AVENUE

There is a reason why the original designers of the AMNH chose the main entrance to be placed on Central Park West ... THAT is where the appropriate amount of room is to accommodate the large crowds that would forever be gathering there.

Nothing whatsoever has changed in all these passing decades. The back of the AMNH remains strongly embedded in a NEIGHBORHOOD. Treat and respect it as such. Get a little backbone and stand up for something other than the BIG DOLLAR (and, by all means, go take a listen again to Joni Mitchell's song.) Don't be another stereotype in this all-too-well-heeled town ... what a grave disappointment if you do. A parks department's FIRST loyalty is to the PEOPLE ... NOT ramming a tasteless and much-too-large monstrosity into their priceless trees and surroundings. Pretty black and white for anyone with half an ounce of integrity, brains AND HEART. Let's see what you're made of, Owen. Go forth, stand up and do the right thing.

Anne McFrederick 111 W. 82nd Street, Apt. 5B NYC 10024

From: Laura Messersmith < ljqmessersmith@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 8:54 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Cc: Michael Messersmith (via Google Drive)
Subject: Public Comment - AMNH Gilder Center DEIS

Dear Mr. Wells,

We are deeply concerned about the American Museum of Natural History's proposal to build the Richard Gilder Center in Theodore Roosevelt Park and ask that the NYC Parks Department do everything possible to stop this project.

Our public park land, whether it consists of the the intimate tree lined walkways of Teddy Roosevelt Park, broad green lawns of Central Park, or the splendor of the Grand Canyon is land that we hold in trust. It is not to be built upon at the behest of a billionaire, mined for its resources, or treated as potential for the lumber yard. If we waver on that point even just a quarteracre, we risk establishing a precedent that will see all of our park land viewed as just a vacant lot waiting for a new, shiny structure. Particularly here in New York City, where the ratio of people to green space is so extreme, if we allow any institution or developer to destroy our parks we seriously jeopardize what makes this city a beautiful, livable place for all its citizens.

Those reasons alone should be enough to halt this project, but in the case of the Gilder Center there are many more. NYC's elected officials and government agencies have a responsibility to keep the public safe. That includes in the traditional sense of police protection, but also from avoidable environmental contaminants. When the affected area for the Gilder Center project expanded to include W.72nd – W.85th Street and spanned from CPW to Broadway it crystalized how enormous the impact will be on an entire neighborhood and the tens of thousands who live here – parents, children, pregnant women, elderly retirees.

NYC's public officials have not done enough to alert the people who live on the UWS and inform them about the risks if the Gilder Center is allowed to continue. Sadly, we've seen a terrible example in Flint, MI of what happens to an unsuspecting population when the people charged with protecting them put other priorities first. The toxic chemicals found on the proposed building site, which certainly tarnish the AMNH's reputation as an institution concerned with nature, pose a very real and very dangerous threat to the health and safety of the people who live near by. We are also disturbed that substances known to cause damage to human beings – lead, asbestos, benzine, PAHs – are treated as no big deal. We're apparently supposed to trust that the AMNH, the source of the pollution in the first place, will do the right thing.

We deserve honesty and full disclosure about the true costs of this proposal – during construction and for the lifetime of the building – the decibel levels we will be expected to endure for 3-5 years, the hundreds of thousands of new visitors, the increase in traffic and vehicle congestion sure to contribute to further delays of emergency and police responders, the cost beyond the \$135M taxpayer dollars allocated that will be required to heat, cool & maintain the building. We deserve a detailed, thorough, and well-publicized Remediation Action Plan that takes these risks seriously and a full accounting of the burden the New York taxpayer will be expected to bear before we can even remotely consider whether a project of any sort should be permitted.

The facts as they stand today are clear: this project not only asks New Yorkers to pay millions, give up their green space, and accept a reduced quality of life – it also assumes that we will be willing to give up our health and safety too. No one would make that deal and this proposal should be rejected immediately.

Sincerely,

Laura & Mike Messersmith

140 W. 79th St, Apt 12B

From: Laura Miner <finemine2000@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, May 19, 2017 3:20 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: Re: Broken web link. Plus NEW QUESTION ABOUT JUNE 15th meeting

Thank you for the corrected web link which does work.

I am trying to wade through the DEIS.

The TABLE OF CONTENTS alone is 17 Pages long.

Can we plead for more time to study it, please?

And will it be possible to ask for corrections to some answers given from the Scoping Session? For example, my question about the dog run got an incomplete answer in that sunlight/shadow and other

impacts were not addressed.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Laura Miner

From: Wells, Owen (Parks) < Owen. Wells@parks.nyc.gov>

Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 6:59 PM

To: 'Laura Miner'

Subject: RE: Broken web link

#### Hello Ms. Miner-

Thanks for your interest and attention to this project. It looks like an extra space in the web address. The DEIS was released today and is available on our website at <a href="http://nyc.gov/parks/amnh-gilder">http://nyc.gov/parks/amnh-gilder</a>. Let me know if you have any further trouble accessing the documents on-line.

A public hearing on the DEIS will be held on June 15, 2017 at 6:00 PM, at the American Museum of Natural History, LeFrak Theater, enter at Weston Pavilion entrance, Columbus Avenue and West 79th Street, New York, New York 10024. Written submissions will continue to be accepted after the hearing, as well (through June 26) if you'd like additional time to prepare comment (or supplement comments made at the hearing). Thanks, Owen

# Owen Wells, AICP

Director of Environmental Review

T 212.360.3492

E owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

#### **NYC Parks**

The Arsenal, Central Park 830 Fifth Avenue, Rm. 401 New York, NY 10065 nyc.gov/parks

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From: Laura Miner [mailto:finemine2000@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 18, 2017 4:06 PM

**To:** Wells, Owen (Parks) **Subject:** Broken web link

Dear Mr. Wells,

Please let me know when there is a working link to the report. This link does not work: "A copy of the DEIS can be obtained on-line at <a href="http://nyc.gov/parks/">http://nyc.gov/parks/</a> amnh-gilder" either the first part or with the /amnh-gilder part.

I might add that the next hearing is too soon for members of the non-specialist, general public to digest the material and respond accordingly. Can we have more time, please?

Thank you. Sincerely, Laura Miner

### Owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

June 25, 2017

Re: AMNH Gilder

Dear Mr. Wells,

I want to add that I agree with all the people and groups who say the AMNH Gilder Proposal should NOT be accepted in the absence of a **Master Plan** for AMNH and the 'super block' of Theodore Roosevelt Park.

I'd also like to add to my earlier email that I had spoken to my NYS Assembly member's office about your Public Hearing and they asked me to send them my concerns. I think I should include a copy for you. See below and attached. Since you enlightened me in person about the requirements for public notice, I do not need to include the copy of the ad in The Daily News, but I do find it shocking how very few people in the neighborhood have been informed throughout the process. And that elected officials as well as museum officials did not attend the public comment session. And, indeed, how could the proposal be considered important if no staff members, researchers, educators from AMNH showed up in the comment period to express their need for the project? Only one museum volunteer spoke in favor of it, but on architectural rather than scientific/educational grounds.

Thank	vou.
I HWIH	,

Sincerely,

Laura Miner

Copy of concerns sent to Linda Rosenthal's office:

As discussed on the phone just now, I do have concerns about the proposed AMNH Gilder expansion. Probably too much to put in an email so I am attaching what has been written up by NYC Parks Dept. and Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park. And I want to flag the fact that the Museum wants to take away public park land for a building which is not necessary, which is not critical to their mission. The architect stated at a public meeting that there is sufficient space within the existing footprint.

My first concern about the process is how this has been kept out of the public's eye compared to the notifications given for decision-making about sidewalk cafes and other minor changes in the neighborhood. This far into the process I find that very few neighbors are aware of the proposal, the process, the taxpayer costs, the noise, pollution, traffic issues.

My second concern is how unscientific the Museum has been about collecting data for the proposal. As someone who has worked in education, science, and also in public relations, I find it unconscionable how they and their supporters have presented more anecdotal self-serving 'evidence' than scientifically, independently-produced hard data about the proposal, its implications, and the public's opinions.

Yet, in the words of the AMNH's own Neil deGrasse Tyson:

"Science is a fundamental part of the country that we are," he says in the video. "But in this, the 21st century, when it comes time to make decisions about science, it seems that people have lost the ability to judge what is true and what is not."

That shift, he says, is a "recipe for the complete dismantling of our informed democracy."

http://www.businessinsider.com/neil-degrasse-tyson-most-important-words-video-2017-4



Neil DeGrasse Tyson says this new video ... - Business Insider

www.businessinsider.com

Neil deGrasse Tyson says this new video may contain the 'most important words' he's ever spoken

Can we have more truthful information and an informed democracy about this proposal?

If anything, our district should be setting the standard for American democracy, transparency, and truth.

#### Dr. Mr. Wells:

Attached and repeated below are my questions and comments. I would have liked to have more time to study the DEIS and the presentation and comments from the recent Public Hearing (transcript of which won't be available for a while, I understand) in order to include the topics of sustainability, 'green' issues, and alternatives. Bottom line, though, is that the DEIS should be rejected, an independent study should be done, and no park land or trees should be given up this proposed building project.

Sincerely yours,

Laura Miner

From: Laura Miner, 122 W. 80th St. NYC 10024

To: Mr. Owen Wells, <a href="mailto:owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov">owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov</a>

Date: June 26, 2017

Re: AMNH Gilder Proposal, Response from Scoping Session, and The Bull Moose Dog Run.

## **Questions and Comments:**

The official response regarding the impact on The Bull Moose Dog Run by the AMNH Gilder project was that it will have <u>no</u> impact on the dog run. This turns out to be a false statement and I respectfully request it be looked at again. The question should be answered in a full, independent, transparent, and scientific manner.

For example, please independently verify and explain the health effects on humans and pets of the noise levels during 3-5 years of construction, and the toxic pollution and mitigation plan/monitoring/possible area of spread.

What is a realistic time frame for the construction period? As one person pointed out at the DEIS Public Hearing, it went from 3 years to 3-5 years and could be even longer. Therefore, the use of the word "temporary" in the DEIS could be clarified because it does not mean "short-term" but rather something more extended, even though not permanent.

The DEIS Shadow Study should be verified by an independent source and diagrammed on a plan of the Dog Run before any decision is made because many people are regular visitors year-round and count on Dog Run as a place to soak up some beneficial rays of sunshine Vitamin D, especially in the winter months.

Blocking that sunlight in the Dog Run is unacceptable. If the Shadow Study were to be verified by an observant human eye, it would reveal that the loss of reflected afternoon light on the Rose Center would have a negative impact on Dog Run users.

Walking a dog to the Dog Run is already challenging at crowded Museum times, including after night-time parties there. Please do an independent study of the paths to and from the dog run that will be a). inaccessible during construction and b). how much more crowded with increased number of visitors. NOTE: When The Rose Center was planned, the estimated increase in visitors was significantly under-estimated. A serious, independent study of increased crowds and traffic must be done.

In view of the AMNH DEIS and public statements below, it now seems that we are expected to use Central Park instead of Theodore Roosevelt Park and The Dog Run during construction. NOTE: Many Dog Run users already go to Central Park, take their dogs for walks on a leash (or off-leash during permitted hours), but they also come to the Dog Run on a daily basis, so that their dogs can get exercise while owners and dogs can socialize in a quiet, isolated, neighborhood space. NOTE: Many dog owners cannot take their dogs to Central Park because it is either too far for them and/or their dog(s), or due to time constraints, and mobility/health/endurance issues.

Theodore Roosevelt Park is the neighborhood's back yard and The Bull Moose Dog Run has been an essential part of it for decades.

People would like to see The Parks Department better funded and staffed and able to demonstrate that it can do its job in Theodore Roosevelt Park FIRST, before taking on additional work that the AMNH Gilder project would impose. It seriously needs better walkway maintenance, trash and snow/ice removal. The walkways have not been in good repair for years and in winter, when people want most to have a quick visit to the Park and Dog Run, the conditions are extremely hazardous. Why? Why aren't repairs and maintenance and adequate shoveling done?

Finally, the dreaded issue of vermin. It took several years of public complaints before the problem was reduced—at its worst, tourists would gather to watch rats frolic on the lawns and dogs were bitten by rats. There was an unearthly screeching sound under the greenery in the evening, with shaking of leaves, from the considerable rat activity. A worker told me that he had killed 8 rats in a trash can one morning, using only a shovel. The new trash containers have reduced the number of encounters with mice and rats. But what will happen during the construction phase? I understand that the Rose Center site had rats the size of dogs and a similar experience, with extensive rat tunnels caused a six month extension to the construction period of a residential building recently in the east 70s of Manhattan. And what will happen with increased visitors, food carts, and

subsequent vermin-attractions in future? How is this being planned for, budgeted for, and how rapidly can problems be solved?

### **AMNH DEIS and Public Statements**

"Portions of Theodore Roosevelt Park would be closed for the duration of the approximately three-year-long construction period to accommodate the construction of the proposed project. While a temporary displacement, this loss of open space would not result in a significant adverse impact. Nearby sections of the Theodore Roosevelt Park and other open space resources ... such as Central Park would accommodate the largely passive recreation activities displaced from the affected area."

"...the level and duration of construction noise at these buildings would constitute a temporary significant adverse noise impact under SEQRA and CEQR."

From: Elyse + Steve Montiel <montielgallery@earthlink.net>

**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 3:03 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

**Subject:** Please don't take public land for private profit

June 26, 2017

Mr. Owen Wells
Director of Environmental Review
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401
New York, NY 10065

Dear Mr. Wells:

My husband and I live on West 79th Street, less than a block from Theodore Roosevelt Park, our public green space that provides us daily respite from the constant onslaught of New York. It makes life livable here.

Our park not only provides relief for us and our neighbors, but for the birds and animals that make our neighborhood wonderful. We and others use the park every day in many ways – from reading, to playing with neighbor dogs, to visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public land and green space to be developed by a private institution is wrong. Destroying our park to build the American Museum of Natural History's Gilder Center will cost us and our community health and peace for the benefit of profit to the museum. Taking our public park cannot be the way for the museum to go.

We learned that even Jeanne Gang, the architect for the project, acknowledged that the project could be realized using the museum's existing footprint - without taking away any of this valuable public community space.

With our neighbors, I see our public green space being destroyed for the sake of museum profit. The proposed Gilder Center in no way compensates for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. Please hear the truth and reject the AMNH's proposal. Serve our community by keeping public land for the public.

Thank you.

Elyse Montiel 145 W. 79th Street New York, NY 10024

eljaglamo3@earthlink.net

From: Fritz Mueller <fritzmueller@mindspring.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, June 25, 2017 10:59 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: Gilder Center project

to: Owen Wells

Director of Environmental Review New York City Department of Parks and Recreation The Arsenal, Central Park 830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401 New York, New York 10065

Dear Mr. Wells,

My letter concerns the Museum of Natural History's proposed "Gilder Center for Science, Education and Innovation". While I have no objection to a "Center for Science, Education and Innovation", I do object to the creation of a new large entry hall at that location - 79th street and Columbus avenue. Two major entrances already exist and the architect in charge has confirmed that the Science, Innovation and Education part of the project could be accomplished within the exiting museum footprint.

This new hall has nothing to do with Science, Innovation or Education, but is intended to allow entry for hundreds of thousands of visitors and serve as a spectacular party and fundraising venue for the museum. For this to happen several (7+) large canopy trees will have to be cut down and a wide, paved entryway constructed to accommodate a huge increase in traffic.

This will completely and irreversibly change and destroy a peaceful, shady, quiet retreat. If you ever spent time on Columbus and 79<sup>th</sup> on a warm late afternoon you will see how this park specifically is kinder-wagen heaven, and for people old and young a quiet refuge from the surrounding noise and traffic. Places like this make city life bearable.

There are many objections to this project, which are probably by now very familiar to you. Yet there is still another point I want you to consider: if you walk or drive east on West 79street, you approach a wall of green trees, above which rises the museum; it's a view of the museum park everyone takes for granted and which cannot possibly be mitigated if lost. This would be no minor loss. Preservation of this view alone is reason enough why park and trees should not be sacrificed for the Gilder Center entry hall.

Besides science, education and innovation, conservation is surely a mission of the museum. The museum should be thrilled to be embedded in such a green shell, which so gently connects it to the neighboring human environment, with which it has to share this location.

I urge you, and the parks commissioner, to preserve Theodore Roosevelt Park and reject the museum's application for this ill-conceived project.

Sincerely, Fritz and Marnie Mueller

From: Antoinette <amuti@nyc.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 6:08 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

THE PROPOSED CENTER IS GIGANTIC AND UNSIGHTLY, AMD DEFINITELY DOES NOT BLEND WITH THE SETTING AND OTHER ARCHITECTURE.

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

Antoinette Muti 65 West 83rd Street MY 10024

Also owner at the Park Belvedere 101 West 79th Street

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

From: Linda Nagle <nagle.linda@gmail.com>
Sent: Fridav. June 30, 2017 1:55 PM

To: Finday, June 30, 2017 1.55

Wells. Owen (Parks)

Subject: Gilder Center

Owen Wells
Director of Environmental Review
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401
New York, New York 10065

Dear Mr. Wells,

As a long time resident of New York City's Upper West Side we have enjoyed the benefits of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH). Unfortunately, we have also witnessed AMNH's shocking and ruthless disregard for the neighborhood in which it resides and its residents during the planning and construction of the Rose Center for Earth and Space. It it clear that AMNH is now about to do it all again with the proposed Gilder Center.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) pays little more than lip service to the negative impact this project will have on the neighborhood and its proposed solutions are laughable. After acknowledging the severity of pedestrian, bicycle, bus and car traffic in the area, to suggest signal changes and widened crosswalks as remedies is pathetic. And to allow the grab of public park space for any project, much less for such a widely contested one, is just a slap in the face to New Yorkers. All the more so given that the project's architect, Jeanne Gang, publically admitted that the AMNH's goals could have been achieved within their existing footprint.

The quality of life in AMNH's neighborhood is already taxed to the tipping point. Given the current conditions coupled with AMNH's abysmal record of responding to community concerns, we urge you to reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

Linda Nagle, PhD 150 W 79th St. Apt. 3D New York, NY 10024

Lucille Perrotta, MD 150 W 79th St. Apt. 3D New York, NY 10024

From: jnetz@verizon.net

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2017 7:55 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: The Richard Gilder Center/OPPOSED

Thank you for spreading the word about this project. I am completely opposed to this construction/destruction on the grounds of the the American Museum of Natural History. The Upper West Side and the museum are very special and vital to the beauty and livability of New York City.

Thank you again. Janet Netzke 2 West 90th Street New York, NY 10024

### 25 June 2017

Owen Wells
Director of Environmental Review
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401
New York, New York 10065

email: <a href="mailto:owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov">owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov</a>

Dear Mr. Wells.

I love having the American Museum of Natural History just a block away from our house, but I am concerned with its plans to encroach further on the lovely neighborhood park that is the Teddy Roosevelt Park. While I enjoy running and walking in Central Park, I feel especially safe having my 13-year old walk unsupervised in the Teddy Roosevelt Park. Any move to reduce the footprint of the park and increase the footprint of the Museum should face a great deal of scrutiny from your office.

I have still not heard from the Museum why it could not build additional space on top of the giant parking lot that has already been built on the North side of the museum next to the Planetarium. It seems that there is plenty of room within the Museum's footprint to expand upwards and hence require a much smaller adjustment for the Columbus Avenue entrance than is currently being contemplated.

The Museum tries to pit this debate as neighbors against Science, but the Museum's arguments in favor of expansion show no limits. The Museum's arguments in favor of the expansion (children that learn about science, etc...) could as easily be applied to any number of further expansions and additions. When does it stop? New York City has a serious shortage of green space; every inch should be protected even while looking for ways to gain new green parklands for the city.

I hope you will consider the overwhelming majority of residents who have written to you on this matter and reject the Museum's proposal in its current form and work to reverse the loss of our public green spaces.

Sincerely,

Gray Newman

171 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10024

From: Ruth Nightengale <ruth.nightengale@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 2:12 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: AMNH Expansion

### Mr. Owen Wells

Dir. of Environmental Review NYC Department of Parks & Recreation

Mr. Wells: As a 21-year resident of the upper west side, I am writing to request that you do not support the plans that the American Museum of Natural History is proposing for expanding into the public park that is adjacent to their building to create the Gilder Center.

I do not believe that the loss of beautiful public space should be outweighed by this additional programming and exhibit space. The museum is a gem in this city, but can repurpose current space or work within their current footprint.

Thank you, Ruth Nightengale 646.382.9273

From: aoife o donnell <aofod1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 10:27 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: AMNH Expansion

# Dear Sir,

I am very concerned with the impact the expansion will have on the denizens of my neighborhood so please take this into consideration when making your final decision. I believe the disruption and environmental repercussions far exceed the added scientific benefits the project will provide.

Yours Faithfully

Aoife O'Donnell 150 West 79th street

From: sarah paulson <bunnybearhead@mac.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 12:08 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: Gilder Center Disaster

Dear Owen,

The plan for this Gilder Center seem so destructive, how has it gotten this far?

The neighborhood will be very adversely affected by this, and I actually have not heard one person speak in favor of it.

That area is already congested, and has a beloved market on Sundays... and it is predicted 750 thousand will come in via Columbus avenue every year? We will lose that market. That alone will guarantee the raging resentment of thousands of people who LIVE here.

The proposed entrance rendering is the ugliest structure I have ever seen, and TOTALLY out of keeping with the building it is being attached to.

It is said "only" six or seven old trees will be taken down, but what do you think will happen to the trees that remain in that area when there is a ten story structure right next to them blocking the eastern sun?

Think of what this science museum, the Gilder Gallery, could do to a struggling poor neighborhood with nothing to draw people to it.

I don't know whether it is in the Museum's charter, but surely the museum's duty is to protect and improve the city. Why not improve a part of town that really needs a cultural institution?

The West 79th Street area has an abundance of them.

I hope my voice, thoughts and opinions expressed above, will be taken into account.

Thank you, Sarah Paulson

Sent from my iPhone

From: Linda Nagle <nagle.linda@gmail.com>
Sent: Fridav. June 30, 2017 1:55 PM

To: Finday, June 30, 2017 1.55

Wells. Owen (Parks)

Subject: Gilder Center

Owen Wells
Director of Environmental Review
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401
New York, New York 10065

Dear Mr. Wells,

As a long time resident of New York City's Upper West Side we have enjoyed the benefits of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH). Unfortunately, we have also witnessed AMNH's shocking and ruthless disregard for the neighborhood in which it resides and its residents during the planning and construction of the Rose Center for Earth and Space. It it clear that AMNH is now about to do it all again with the proposed Gilder Center.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) pays little more than lip service to the negative impact this project will have on the neighborhood and its proposed solutions are laughable. After acknowledging the severity of pedestrian, bicycle, bus and car traffic in the area, to suggest signal changes and widened crosswalks as remedies is pathetic. And to allow the grab of public park space for any project, much less for such a widely contested one, is just a slap in the face to New Yorkers. All the more so given that the project's architect, Jeanne Gang, publically admitted that the AMNH's goals could have been achieved within their existing footprint.

The quality of life in AMNH's neighborhood is already taxed to the tipping point. Given the current conditions coupled with AMNH's abysmal record of responding to community concerns, we urge you to reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

Linda Nagle, PhD 150 W 79th St. Apt. 3D New York, NY 10024

Lucille Perrotta, MD 150 W 79th St. Apt. 3D New York, NY 10024

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	Please save our Park!
From	Jacqueline Phelan
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Monday, June 19, 2017 11:16 AM

We love the park outside the museum of natural history - please - we are NOT in favor of destroying parkland and endangering wildlife, as well as our neighborhood. Hear our voices!thanks, jackie phelan

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	Please save our Park!
From	Jacqueline Phelan
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 16, 2017 4:02 PM

We love the park outside the museum of natural history - please - we are NOT in favor of destroying parkland and endangering wildlife, as well as our neighborhood. Hear our voices!thanks, jackie phelan

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:03 AM

Subject	Please save our Park!
From	Jacqueline Phelan
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 20, 2017 10:20 AM

We love the park outside the museum of natural history - please - we are NOT in favor of destroying parkland and endangering wildlife , as well as our neighborhood. Hear our voices!thanks, jackie phelan

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:03 AM

Subject	Please save our Park!
From	Jacqueline Phelan
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 20, 2017 2:41 PM

We love the park outside the museum of natural history - please - we are NOT in favor of destroying parkland and endangering wildlife, as well as our neighborhood. Hear our voices!thanks, jackie phelan

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:03 AM

Subject	Please save our Park!
From	Jacqueline Phelan
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 20, 2017 7:18 PM

We love the park outside the museum of natural history - please - we are NOT in favor of destroying parkland and endangering wildlife, as well as our neighborhood. Hear our voices!thanks, jackie phelan

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	Please save our Park!
From	Jacqueline Phelan
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Monday, June 12, 2017 7:24 PM

We love the park outside the museum of natural history - please - we are NOT in favor of destroying parkland and endangering wildlife, as well as our neighborhood. Hear our voices!thanks, jackie phelan

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	Please save our Park!
From	Jacqueline Phelan
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 13, 2017 3:59 PM

We love the park outside the museum of natural history - please - we are NOT in favor of destroying parkland and endangering wildlife , as well as our neighborhood. Hear our voices!thanks, jackie phelan

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	Please save our Park!
From	Jacqueline Phelan
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Wednesday, June 14, 2017 6:55 AM

We love the park outside the museum of natural history - please - we are NOT in favor of destroying parkland and endangering wildlife, as well as our neighborhood. Hear our voices!thanks, jackie phelan

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	Please save our Park!
From	Jacqueline Phelan
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Wednesday, June 14, 2017 11:26 AM

We love the park outside the museum of natural history - please - we are NOT in favor of destroying parkland and endangering wildlife, as well as our neighborhood. Hear our voices!thanks, jackie phelan

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	Please save our Park!
From	Jacqueline Phelan
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 15, 2017 4:33 PM

We love the park outside the museum of natural history - please - we are NOT in favor of destroying parkland and endangering wildlife, as well as our neighborhood. Hear our voices!thanks, jackie phelan

# Please save our Park!

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	Please save our Park!
From	Jacqueline Phelan
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 16, 2017 11:01 AM

We love the park outside the museum of natural history - please - we are NOT in favor of destroying parkland and endangering wildlife, as well as our neighborhood. Hear our voices!thanks, jackie phelan

Sent from my iPad

From: Jacqueline Phelan <jshawn425@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2017 6:25 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: Please save our Park!

We love the park outside the museum of natural history - please - we are NOT in favor of destroying parkland and endangering wildlife, as well as our neighborhood.

Hear our voices!thanks, jackie phelan

Sent from my iPad

# AMNH enlargement proposal into park land on north side of complex along 81st st.

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	AMNH enlargement proposal into park land on north side of complex along 81st st.
From	<u>Faith Pleasanton</u>
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 15, 2017 6:17 PM

This is yet another example of cultural institutions' Boards of Trustees forgetting the world "trust" in Trustee!!! New York city has entered into too many Faustian deals, with land grabs of property adjacent to museums, libraries, schools, religious structures, etc.

There are other ways (c.f. the Frick's recent revised expansion program) to handle necessary enlargements issues for our cultural institutions.

Faith Pleasanton

**New York City** 

50 yr resident Upper West Side

<sup>&</sup>quot;Build it and they will come" is not the answer, it's the problem.

<sup>&</sup>quot;NO NO NO" to the theft once again of public park land (in the name of progress & culture).

# AMNH Gilder Center proposal

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	AMNH Gilder Center proposal
From	Eva Podietz
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 16, 2017 10:45 PM

#### Hello, Director Wells.

I attended the 6/15/17 public hearing regarding the draft environmental impact statement concerning the Gilder Center proposal. I did not hear any mention of the impact on the Bull Moose Dog Run. I understand from study's FAQs "The dog run will not be altered or affected by the design. The paths to the dog run will remain." However, this does not address several issues that would have an impact on our dogs and dog handlers:

- during the period of construction, will the dog run be kept open? What about the paths to the dog run?
- If the dog run is to be kept open,
  - what precautions will be undertaken to keep unearthed toxins and dust from contaminating the dog run?
  - o what will be done to re-route rodents that will be dislodged by the construction from entering the dog run?
  - will paths to the dog run be unobstructed?
  - o how will the noise from construction be controlled so as not to ruin the quality of the dogs' exercise time?
- If the dog run is not going to be kept open, where will an alternative dog run be set up? Note: Central Park does NOT have any dog runs, and there are no places in Central Park where dogs can run unleashed between the hours of 9 AM and 9 PM. If Bull Moose Run is closed, this will be problematic for dog owners who live near Bull Moose Run and utilize this site regularly.
- As it is, the Bull Moose dog run really needs to be upgraded. The surface material is terrible, and the small dog run is barely useful, particularly during the winter months. Drainage is horrendous, and large puddles are present for days after rain showers.

Please ensure that answers to these questions are addressed in the final environmental impact statement. I have resided on West 83rd Street since 1990, and I have a bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Pennsylvania. I have spent much time in Philadelphia's Franklin Institute, Wistar Institute, and in the AMNH. These are great institutions for learning re: archeology, anthropology, geology, and astronomy. However, live observation of and participation in nature and the outdoors is something that is severely lacking in New York City and in Philadelphia. I think it behooves us to ensure that our animals and we, ourselves, have sufficient green space to enjoy real contact with nature and science.

Sincerely yours, Eva-Lynn Podietz 46 West 83rd Street, Apt. 7D NY, NY 10024-5253 (212) 877-9232

# Veto the Richard Gilder Center

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:12 AM

Subject	Veto the Richard Gilder Center
From	Mark Poons
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 01, 2017 11:54 AM

## Dear Mr Wells,

I am writing to ask you to oppose the Richard Gilder Center. The loss of parkland would be to great and diminish what is now a wonderful park. The museum has plenty of existing space that could be repurposed without the need for new construction. As a resident of the Upper West Side I'm opposed to the Richard Gilder Center and I hope you will be too. Thank you for your time,

Mark Poons 219 West 80th st APT 3B NY NY 10025

From: Jey Purushotham <jey.puru@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 5:23 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: Against the AMNH Expansion

Hello Mr. Wells,

This is to inform you that I am a UWS resident and I am very much against the AMNH expansion plans. The DEIS was not completed in good faith as was attested to by attorney Michael Hiller at the public hearing on June 15. The Museum has been keeping these expansion plans as quiet as possible as they know the public would be outraged if the full and transparent plans came to light. The Museum does not own the parkland upon which they intend to encroach. Furthermore, the construction itself will be a horrendous process for the neighborhood to endure with respect to released toxins, traffic and noise/air pollution - all happening near several schools. And in the end we will get a monstrous addition that the neighborhood has clearly and repeatedly stated will be against the interests of the community. Please preserve the small amount of parkland that we have here in NYC.

Thank you.

Best regards, Jey Purushotham

From: Barbara Regan <barbaraaregan@aol.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2017 2:45 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

**Subject:** proposed plans for AMNH Gilder addition

#### Dear Sir:

The proposed plans for the new Gilder Center at the American Museum of Natural History site are antithetical to the primary purpose of public parks. The human and economic costs to the city are in no way outweighed by any proposed but not proven benefits of this construction/development. Just for one item, the Metropolitan Museum has a single large entrance in Fifth Avenue like the current American Museum of Natural History entrance on Central Park West. Don't you think one huge traffic-snarling entrance is enough? The AMNH does not need another clone entrance on Columbus Avenue.

Please consider your responsibility as the director of environmental review for NYC parks in all your evaluations/recommendations.

Barbara A. Regan 225 Central Park West Apt.703 New York, New York 10024

#### **Lesli Rice**

40 West 77<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 14E New York, NY 10024

June 5, 2017

Owen Wells, Director of Environmental Review
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401
New York, New York 10065

By email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells:

I am writing to file comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Gilder Center of American Museum of Natural History (AMNH).

I attended the very first public information presentation the AMNH held and came away from that meeting with two enduring impressions. One: that the whole concept of a "center for science, education and innovation" is little more that a public relations label to justify an expansion plan. Two: that AMNH'S announcement at the time that they had listened to community concerns and rolled back the original layout of the project to include just a quarter of an acre of Theodore Roosevelt Park, public park land, was a strategic tactic to mollify reactions to a taking that should never be allowed to occur at all.

Many of the goals that this expansion is aimed at accomplishing can be achieved with other approaches that would not require any taking of public lands and could reduce the degree of environmental hazards involved in demolition and prolonged construction .

With regard to increased access for visitors: there is already an entrance at Columbus Avenue and 79<sup>th</sup> Street, the Webster Pavilion. It was recently built, in 2000, and it is woefully underused. I know lifelong NYers who are frequent visitors to the Museum and they don't know this entrance exists! I watch as tourists line up at the Central Park entrance. They are not encouraged by Museum staff to walk around the block to avoid a wait. AMNH should invest in some effective communications to increase awareness and use of this existing entrance. Make the Webster Pavilion function better rather than spend hundreds of millions of dollars to recreate an entrance here. Similarly, the 77<sup>th</sup> Street entrance is now used only for staff and special events. Why can't this entrance be used for general admission to alleviate congestion?

With regard to circulation: alternative plans listed in the DEIS would address the issue of connecting the Hall of Minerals and the western corner of Building 8 to other parts of the museum. There might not be as many points of connectivity to alternative plans as the preferred option, but connectivity could be achieved within AMNH's existing footprint. In many instances, alternatives were deemed not "to meet the objectives of the proposed project". I respectfully suggest that the "objectives" need to be scaled back. Perhaps the 80% of the proposed project

that is within the existing AMNH footprint needs to rethought as the 100%. In other words, the total square footage of the project ought to be reduced rather than attempting to create the same amount of square footage in the alternatives as in proposed plan. Don't claim that shadows cast will be greater in alternatives because certain parts of the proposed designs will need to be taller — develop plans to build less. Perhaps a combination of two alternatives — for example, relocating administrative functions offsite along with a renovation of the area now occupied by Building 15 and 15A would achieve most of the objectives AMNH wishes to achieve.

The greatest environmental impact of this proposed project and the greatest "irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources" are the loss of public open space and the destruction of a number of mature trees. It is postulated that these losses are offset by the long-term benefits of the project. Yet, replanted new trees are not a replacement for trees that have taken decades to mature and new landscaping is not a replacement for the giving away of public lands. We are asked to accept that this loss of parkland is a worthy sacrifice in exchange for "enhancing the Museum's ability to fulfill its mission". Destroying nature to study science stands logic on its head. What is particularly egregious on this point is that not a speck of programming, research or education are to take place in this extra 20% of space that is the area of Theodore Roosevelt Park in question. This taking is for the new entrance. It is a dramatic entrance to be sure but it is not a fair trade.

I repeat: losing public open space in Theodore Roosevelt Park so that AMNH can create a new entrance should not be permitted.

The construction of the Gilder Center as presently conceived will be an architectural manifestation of "the emperor has no clothes". Further, it will set a dangerous and unjustified precedent for the taking of public parklands. If the Museum wants to grow and address what they see as deficits in their current facilities, they need to return to the drawing board and find a solution within the space available to them within their already vast campus.

Thank	von	for	this	on	portunity	v to	exi	oress	mv	concerns	
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Sincerely,

Lesli Rice

From: DeAnna D. Rieber < DRieber@Halstead.com>

**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 9:47 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Cc: SuEllen Estey; markyourwords327@gmail.com; Helen Rosenthal

(rosenthal.helen@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Opposition letter to the "proposed" Gilder Center

**Attachments:** Tree Lives Matter.docx

Hello Owen,

I hope the NYC Parks Department will rethink it's role in the AMNH expansion project. The Parks department has worked hard to earn a respected reputation as a steward and defender of our city's green spaces.

This project threatens to damage that legacy.

It does not make sense to many of us what NYC Parks has to gain by approving this development. Why did you choose a company to do the environmental assessment which has a known reputation for "rubber stamping" these kinds of projects involving development and big money???? That alone leaves much concern about the role of your organization as a "protector" of our green spaces and parks. Has the role of NYC Parks changed? It is very confusing.

We need the NYC Parks more than ever to take a stand against the loss of any green space. This should be your most important concern!

Thank you.

Best regards,

Dee





DeAnna (Dee) Rieber

Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker

Harlem Top Agent in US 2016

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From: Antonia Rossello <ARossello@srarchitecture.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2017 10:46 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

**Subject:** Please, protect our park spaces!

As a member of this community we request the preservation of this important open space by the Museum of Natural History. There are many landmark structures in need of preservation and restoration that could be used by our cultural institutions to expand physically while investing in the conservation and development of the neighborhood. Please consider how a very collaborative effort to combine two important causes, preservation and expansion could profoundly benefit our neighborhoods.

Thanks for your consideration, Antonia

Antonia Rosselló AIA

Salazar + Rosselló Architecture
370 Central Park West
New York, NY 10025
T / 212-865-3239
F / 212-865-1554
E / arossello@srarchitecture.com

Respectfully, I would like to raise the following concerns about the DEIS, made available by the AMNH.

- 1. West 77<sup>th</sup> Street Museum Entrance: In the description of the project site in the Executive Summary, there is a reference to the West 77<sup>th</sup> Street Entrance to the Museum, and in a footnote, it is explained that this is not an appropriate entrance because it does not have "public ticketing facilities." However, the West 77<sup>th</sup> Street Entrance, designed by J. C. Cady as part of the West 77<sup>th</sup> Street frontage built in 1888-1908, and restored in the last decade as part of a major restoration project, is according to the AIA Guide to New York City the most architecturally significant entrance to the Museum. It was used, until about 2001, as a secondary entrance (to the CPW entrance) and had full ticketing facilities.

  There is no adequate explanation of why the West 77<sup>th</sup> Street Entrance could not be utilized at this time, nor is there any exploration of how this entrance might assist
- has been offered in this regard.
  2. Park Land Opening: The opening of park land from 78<sup>th</sup> street to 79<sup>th</sup> street to public access is insignificant. It is a narrow stretch and small (6400 square feet) and

does not provide circulation that one might expect of an addition to park land.

the Museum in solving its internal circulation problems. In fact, no alternate plan

- 3. **Future Park Land Encroachment:** The DEIS purports to justify the environmental impact of the removal of public park land, however, no evident commitment has been made regarding removal of public park land for future Museum building projects. Such a commitment should be made by the Museum in writing, at this time.
- 4. 78<sup>th</sup> Street and Columbus Avenue Intersection: The impact of traffic has not been evaluated for the 78<sup>th</sup> Street and Columbus Avenue intersection and two cross walks. From personal daily use, I can say that there is substantial vehicular and pedestrian traffic at this intersection. The pedestrian traffic at this intersection includes many very young children, walking or using scooters, their parents, as well as siblings in strollers, going to and from PS 87 on West 78<sup>th</sup> Street. This is a highly vulnerable population and their safety needs to be addressed.
  In addition, over the past eighteen months, an apartment building construction project at the corner of West 78<sup>th</sup> Street and Columbus Avenue has significantly endangered pedestrians crossing both 78<sup>th</sup> Street and Columbus Avenue.
  Construction trucks parked on Columbus Avenue frequently block the uptown crosswalk that crosses Columbus Avenue. As cars, trucks and school buses make the turn onto Columbus Avenue they conflict with pedestrians attempting to cross. The proposed Museum construction would likely cause similar problems at this intersection and has not been addressed in the DEIS.

# **AMNH Expansion**

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	AMNH Expansion
From	<u>David Rudofsky</u>
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 15, 2017 3:42 PM

#### **Director Wells:**

The proposed expansion of the AMNH will cause excessive disruption and congestion to the Theodore Roosevelt Park

and adjacent Columbus Ave and should not be approved.

Even if it is difficult to assign a "dollars and cents" cost to the resulting disruption, congestion, pollution., it is important

that they be heavily weighed in the final decision, and when they are, the right answer would be to <u>not</u> allow the

proposed Richard Gilder Center expansion.

If the AMNH and its donors really care about advance scientific education for female school system students, they can

get out to the individual schools to teach it, without having to expand the footprint of the AMNH, and carve into Theodore Roosevelt

Park.

--

Best,

David 914-216-3566

drudofsky@gmail.com

http://www.rudofskyassociates.com/fractional-cfo-services/

David T Schwartz, MD 40 West 77 Street New York, NY 10024

Owen Wells, Director of Environmental Review NYC Department of Parks & Recreation The Arsenal, Central Park, Room 401 New York, New York 10065

Dear Mr. Wells

As a long-term resident of West 77<sup>th</sup> Street, museum visitor and museum admirer, I am dismayed by the current proposal for museum expansion to annex existing NYC parkland in Theodore Roosevelt Park. I am also disappointed by the recently published Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the seeming capitulation of the NYC Parks Department. I would like to make three points in my note.

1) I do not believe that alternative plans for the museum expansion and renovation have been adequately considered. In the EIS, six alternatives were given, but all are inherently unsuitable -- either increased expansion or totally inadequate designs (i.e., keeping the existing footprint). I feel it was disingenuous for the Parks Department and its contractor to only propose such alternatives. The museum and its architect should "go back to the drawing board" to come up with realistic alternatives that impinge less on existing parkland.

For example, a plan that would involve (substantially) less annexation of parkland but still allow the museum to meet its main objectives would be to set back the northern expansion so its contour matches that of the existing Building 17. The central portion could be moved back a corresponding amount. The "Central Exhibition Hall" could still be accommodated. The southern expansion could be scaled back to one-half or one-third of its proposed size to accommodate improved circulation of the blind-end exhibit spaces of Building 8. Some of the proposed new education and exhibition spaces might have to be accommodated by adding one or two stories to the expansion. The preservation of parkland and added outdoor space would more than compensate for any shadows on the Ross Terrace. (Two diagrams are attached to this message to show these changes.)

- 2) The Parks Department justifies the loss of park land by pointing out that the proportion of open space in this neighborhood exceeds the target proportion for an average neighborhood. This is a rationalization, not a justification. Once given away, parkland is gone forever and the existing parkland is a key amenity to this neighborhood and the city. It seems as though the Parks Department and the Museum are in the thrall of the wealthy donors and not looking out for the best interests of the city populace.
- 3) While not mentioned in the EIS or museum plan, there has been talk of inserting walkways into the existing green space between the museum façade and West 77<sup>th</sup> Street. However, rather than compensate for loss of park land by the museum expansion, it would further degrade (impinge upon) Theodore Roosevelt Park. The existing green space serves as a buffer and respite between the museum facade and the (ever increasing) pedestrian traffic on West 77<sup>th</sup> Street. The space is too narrow to comfortably accommodate such walkways without being ruined. Having uncongested parkland along the museum façade is essential to maintaining the unencumbered façade as a neighborhood and urban amenity.

To conclude, I realize that time may seem short to embark on a redesign, but the impact of the museum expansion on the neighborhood and city is substantial. The price to pay for an over-scaled addition and loss of outdoor parkland is too great not to consider realistic and better alternatives.

Sincerely,
David T Schwartz

#### Methodology

- Need impact assessment on Sundays
- Consider using same study area for all analyses. For example, the study area for Neighborhood Character is from West 72<sup>nd</sup> to West 86<sup>th</sup> Street and from Broadway to the Loop Drive in Central Park – consider using this for all analyses
- Different studies were done at different times of year Open Space was assessed in late July/early August (and in late October) when many people are out of town for the summer

#### Transportation

- 20% estimate for Gilder entrance seems low
- 60% of visitors arrive by school bus and coach between 10A 2P on weekdays and varies seasonally, with heaviest usage in April/May, followed by November/December and lowest usage in August/September, yet study of transportation impact was done in October please reassess during peak usage period
- Pedestrian usage data collected October 2015 weekdays 11A 2P and 3-6P and Saturdays 12-5P when many visitors most likely already inside the museum please reassess during peak arrival and departure periods
- Impact on transportation seems unlikely to be mitigated by simple signal retiming please assess larger radius from construction zone

#### Park & Open Space

- Pathways getting much wider in Theodore Roosevelt Park what percentage of grass will be lost with the increase in paved areas?
- See Page 13 in Open Space, which describes a "new enlarged paved area in the Margaret Mead Green"
- Question the study area for Open Space, which includes Central Park (P. 16 in Open Space)
- How will passive park usage be enforced?
- Impact of 745,000 plus additional museum goers on local neighborhood this estimate seems conservative and it is not reasonable that the increase will be short-lived
- How to manage the increase in number of hot dog vendors on Columbus Avenue?
- Without a significant increase in internal dining facilities, how will the neighborhood absorb the increase in school children and other visitors? Possible impact on the neighborhood's rat population from increased trash in Theodore Roosevelt Park?

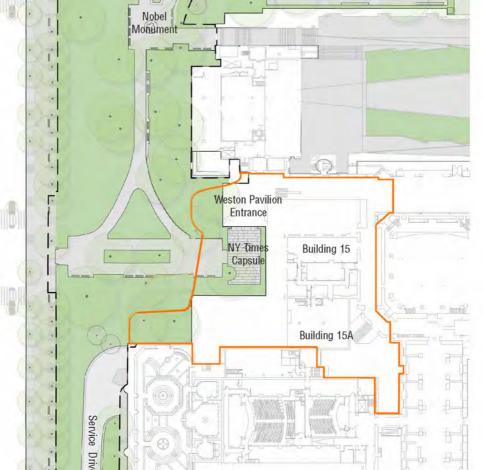
#### Noise

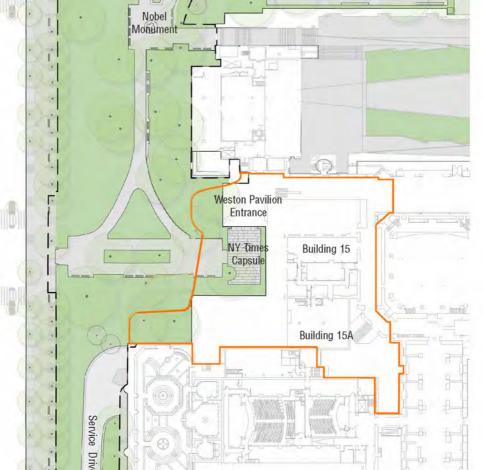
- Noise data collected in 20 minute periods 7-9A, 12-2P and 4:30-6:30P on Tuesday April 5, 2016, Wednesday April 6, 2016 and Saturday May 14, 2016 – please reassess throughout the day and on Sundays
- Who pays for the increased cost of air conditioning in the two buildings affected by noise across from the construction?

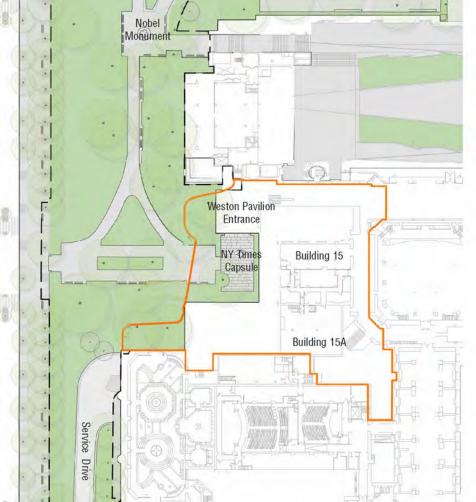
#### Construction

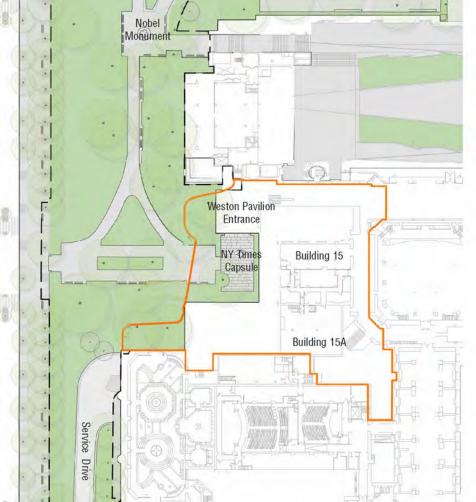
- Construction: truck impact calculation methodology doesn't allow for delays in loading/unloading and back-ups seem likely
- Construction impact on transportation only assessed during weekday evening rush hour please reassess for other time periods throughout the day, seven days per week
- Full assessment of impact on Anderson and PS 87? Both schools are only .1 miles away from the construction area

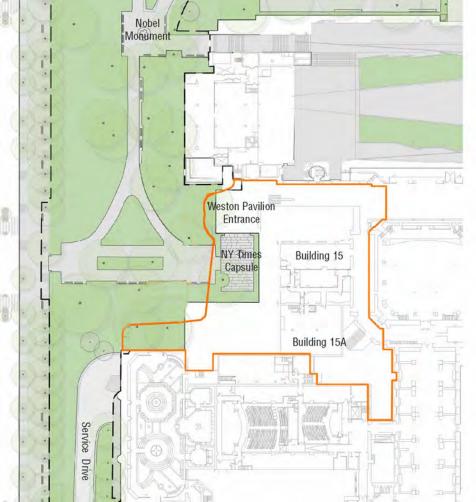
- Idling restrictions seem lax see p. 32 of construction section
- Who pays for disposal of hazardous materials? Serious risks posed by ACM and LBP, already known risk factors in the demolition how to mitigate this?
- Consider not allowing any weekend construction and strict enforcement of 7A construction start time. With so many workers on site, arriving between 6-7A, the noise and congestion could be an issue how to manage this?
- Sunday Farmer's Market move impact of relocation to north side of West 77<sup>th</sup> Street between Columbus and CPW and on Columbus between 77<sup>th</sup>-79<sup>th</sup> Streets (see Pg 15 of Construction). How will this work, so close to the construction site? How will the Farmer's Market be reintegrated back to its original location after construction with so many additional visitors using the Columbus Avenue entrance?
- Similar questions about the Crafts on Columbus, Street Festivals on Columbus Avenue, and the Thanksgiving Day Parade all important to the neighborhood











From: David Todd Schwartz <david.schwartz@nyu.edu>

**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 5:44 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: Fwd: AMNH Expansion Plans into Theodore Roosevelt Park

Attachments: AMNH Gilder Center Revised Plan A.jpg; AMNH Gilder Center Revised Plan B.jpg; Museum

Expansion Note to Owen Wells from David T Schwartz.doc; AMNH Gilder Center Revised

Plan C.jpg

PS. I realize I am slightly past the submission deadline, but after writing to you last night, I took another look at the AMNH Columbus Ave entrance and noted that some of the items in the plan on the EIS were not clear.

The box to the west of Bld'g 15A is just a below grade level platform, not a structure. In addition, the West facade of Bld'g 8 is set back from its perimeter.

Therefore, the Gilder addition could be scaled back even more than I indicated. See the attached plan. This would entail the loss of only 4 canopy trees (all are magnificent, though - hope you've seen them) and still allow the museum to meet its major objectives.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **David Todd Schwartz** < <u>david.schwartz@nyu.edu</u>>

Date: Sun, Jun 25, 2017 at 10:01 PM

Subject: AMNH Expansion Plans into Theodore Roosevelt Park

To: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

As a long-term resident of West 77<sup>th</sup> Street, museum visitor and museum admirer, I am dismayed by the current proposal for museum expansion to annex existing NYC parkland in Theodore Roosevelt Park. I am also disappointed by the recently published Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the seeming capitulation of the NYC Parks Department. I would like to make three points in my note.

1) I do not believe that alternative plans for the museum expansion and renovation have been adequately considered. In the EIS, six alternatives were given, but all are inherently unsuitable -- either increased expansion or totally inadequate designs (i.e., keeping the existing footprint). I feel it was disingenuous for the Parks Department and its contractor to only propose such alternatives. The museum and its architect should "go back to the drawing board" to come up with realistic alternatives that impinge less on existing parkland.

For example, a plan that would involve (substantially) less annexation of parkland but still allow the museum to meet its main objectives would be to set back the northern expansion so its contour matches that of the existing Building 17. The central portion could be moved back a corresponding amount. The "Central Exhibition Hall" could still be accommodated. The southern expansion could be scaled back to one-half or one-third of its proposed size to accommodate improved circulation of the blind-end exhibit spaces of Building 8. Some of the proposed new education and exhibition spaces might have to be accommodated by adding one or two stories to the expansion. The preservation of parkland and added outdoor space would more than compensate for any shadows on the Ross Terrace. (Two diagrams are attached to this message to show these changes.)

- 2) The Parks Department justifies the loss of park land by pointing out that the proportion of open space in this neighborhood exceeds the target proportion for an average neighborhood. This is a rationalization, not a justification. Once given away, parkland is gone forever and the existing parkland is a key amenity to this neighborhood and the city. It seems as though the Parks Department and the Museum are in the thrall of the wealthy donors and not looking out for the best interests of the city populace.
- 3) While not mentioned in the EIS or museum plan, there has been talk of inserting walkways into the existing green space between the museum façade and West 77<sup>th</sup> Street. However, rather than compensate for loss of park land by the museum expansion, it would further degrade (impinge upon) Theodore Roosevelt Park. The existing green space serves as a buffer and respite between the museum facade and the (ever increasing) pedestrian traffic on West 77<sup>th</sup> Street. The space is too narrow to comfortably accommodate such walkways without being ruined. Having uncongested parkland along the museum façade is essential to maintaining the unencumbered façade as a neighborhood and urban amenity.

To conclude, I realize that time may seem short to embark on a redesign, but the impact of the museum expansion on the neighborhood and city is substantial. The price to pay for an over-scaled addition and loss of outdoor parkland is too great not to consider realistic and better alternatives.

Sincerely,

David T Schwartz, MD

40 West 77 Street

From: Susan Schwartz <sqrschwartz@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 2:50 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: Comments on DEIS for AMNH Attachments: Mitigation issues for AMNH.docx

Mr. Wells,

I am a member of CB7, but I am writing as a private citizen with concerns about the DEIS for the proposed AMNH expansion. Attached please find a list of comments and concerns that I have about this project. I am concerned that AMNH has not sufficiently considered alternative approaches to meeting the stated objectives of the expansion within the current footprint of the museum. The large room on the ground floor of the southern side of the museum that has a large canoe suspended from the ceiling is a prime example of space within the current museum that does not appear -- to the untrained eye -- to be used efficiently. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Schwartz

# re: Park near Museum of Naturel History - planned work

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:12 AM

Subject	re : Park near Museum of Naturel History - planned work
From	alenamny@aol.com
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 08, 2017 3:27 PM

#### Good afternoon Mr. Wells,

I hope not to take much of your time while reading this email and will make a short request , hoping that my voice can count.

I would like to ask you not to approve planned work near Museum of natural history ( w 79 & Columbus ave ) that will include destroying the parkland in favor additional facilities for the Museum.

If Museum needs facilities - perhaps they can try to get approval from the city **to build "up"** and add additional floors instead of using the parkland that is so rare in NYC.

Respectfully,

Alena Shcharbakova

## **AMNH Gilder Center Comment**

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	AMNH Gilder Center Comment
From	<u>Carl Sherman</u>
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Saturday, June 17, 2017 7:20 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express and explain my opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now, after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

The project, as currently proposed, will involve the destruction of the loveliest area of an important neighborhood park—a desperately needed oasis of peace and restoration in perhaps the most densely populated parts of New York City. In addition, during the 3-5 years of construction, it will render much of the rest of the park unusuable.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment. At the very least, it involves wanton, unnecessary appropriation of precious public greenspace.

As a steward of our public parkland and a protector of your city's citizens, it is your duty to oppose this project.

Most sincerely, Carl Sherman 127 W. 79<sup>th</sup> St. #15J New York, NY 10024 Sent from Mail for Windows 10

# AMNH expansion

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	AMNH expansion
From	<u>Tal Shore</u>
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Сс	Marc S. Shore
Sent	Thursday, June 15, 2017 5:49 PM

I live on West 79th Street.

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend Tuesday's meeting and tonight's meeting.

My family and I are totally against the expansion that the Museum is proposing.

The traffic and trash will become a major issue. It already is.

We are tax paying residents of the City – with school age children and are appalled at the proposed expansion.

This morning, when I went to the 81st street subway station, the trash cans were overflowing.

You can not and must not; in good conscience allow or advocate for this to proceed,, as proposed by the AMNH.

Think of the environment, the neighborhood and the future of our children.

Think of Bejing as your "anti-model". Or even North Korea....

Tal Cohen Shore 917.796.9486

From: Howard Silver <hsilver@mac.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 9:25 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

**Subject:** The Columbus Ave. addition to the AMNH

Attachments: PastedGraphic-1.tiff

Hi Mr. Wells,

I would like to add my voice to those of the many people opposed to the proposed science center. I live on 79th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus Ave.

First of all, let me explain that I have no objection to the museum building a new center that will attract many new visitors to the museum. I was happy when the new Planetarium was proposed. While the old planetarium dome had its charm, the new design was extraordinary and made up for the loss. I spent a great deal of time there with my son.

However, I strongly object to a plan that encroaches so heavily on Theodore Roosevelt Park, especially a beautiful tranquil area of the park. I spend I great deal of time there and see how it is enjoyed everyday by many families and individuals. The loss of several trees will change the character and restful nature of the park area entered on Columbus area, turning it into a busy traffic hub.

While Jeanne Gang has done many extraordinary buildings and I know her work, (I've made several films on architecture that are in the collection of MOMA and other major museums.) I think her design for the exterior of the Science Center is an amorphous blob, out of keeping with the rest of the museum. It is not at all on par with the exciting amorphous and convoluted designs of Frank Gehry. It is not worthy of the museum and not worth losing the tranquil nature of the park and several incredible tree specimens.

Please send it back to the drawing board. I welcome a Science Center adjoining Roosevelt Park, just not a badly designed one encroaching way too aggressively on the park.

Sincerely,

**Howard Silver** 



From: Ms Faith Steinberg <faith1091@verizon.net>

Saturday, May 20, 2017 12:25 PM Wells, Owen (Parks) Sent:

To:

Gilder Center Subject:

Dear Mr. Wells,

You are urged NOT to okay the expansion of the AMNH into TR Park, putting the neighborhood at risk to toxic poisoning according to the latest EIS report. This along with the increased crowds--500,000 at least--has been estimated--that will further exacerbate this problem.

Thank you, Faith Steinberg

From: Ms Faith Steinberg <faith1091@verizon.net>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2017 8:31 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: Teddy Roosevelt Park

June 22, 2017
Owen Wells,
Director of Environmental Review
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation

Dear Director Wells,

As Theodore Roosevelt, one of the original members of the Board of Trustees of the AMNH said, "<u>It is ...vandalism</u> wantonly to destroy or to permit the destruction of what is beautiful in nature, whether it be a cliff, a forest [or a park], or a species of mammal or bird."

I am writing to express my opposition to the building of the Gilder Center, affiliated with the AMNH, a private institution, at the proposed location, which will encroach upon Teddy Roosevelt Park, which is part of the NYC Parks Department, as you well know.

Our trusted elected officials have shattered the public trust. These officials have convened behind closed doors with the Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History and without consulting their constituents. Sometime in 2015, this project was announced as "it's a done deal" *before* receiving permission from the Community Board, the Landmarks Commission, the Department of Cultural Affairs, an Environment Impact Statement, which I find highly suspect. The sums of money involved, in the millions, at a time when our City is strapped and unable to fully accommodate the immediate needs of the public, is a travesty.

In addition, the cutting down of seven of our cherished canopy trees, in this day and age of climate change, is reprehensible. The saplings, that are planned to replace the chopped down trees, take c. 20 to 40 years to mature and would have met the dust during Sandy, the storm in 2012. There are no guarantees that such a storm will not reoccur.

Hoping you will reject the building of the Gilder Center which will not be an advantage to our densely populated community.

Thank you, Faith Steinberg Resident of the UWS for 44 years.

# Proposed Gilder Center

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	Proposed Gilder Center
From	Ms Faith Steinberg
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Monday, June 12, 2017 5:23 PM

#### Dear Commissioner Wells,

You are urged to disallow the expansion of the AMNH aka The Gilder Center....It will have an unnecessary effect on our community, environmentally, traffic-wise and I would question any validity of science education emanating from this facility.

Thank you for your consideration, Faith Steinberg

From: Thami Steinhardt <tjp92stein@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 9:57 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Subject: Theodore Roosevelt Park

Dear Mr Wells,

I am writing to you to ask you to please stop the proposed changes to Theodore Roosevelt Park by the AMNH.

I am a huge fan of the museum however their plans will cause several problems for the area.

A loss of parkland, an increase of vehicle traffic, added toxins to the area, trash and vermin. In addition the plans do not include clean energy for the addition but the use of fossil fuels.

Please stop the addition and save the Park and the neighborhood. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Thami Steinhardt

# Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:11 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Dale Stern
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 09, 2017 9:28 PM

#### Dear Mr. Wells,

As someone who lives just a block from the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), I want to express my opposition to its plans to build the Guilder Center. I don't understand why the City should give park land so that the Museum can expand its footprint at the expense of the safety of the neighborhood.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment." Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know: "Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland and planning to cut down old growth trees. The museum has shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Dale Stern

# Gilder center

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:12 AM

Subject	Gilder center
From	pstill@aol.com
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 01, 2017 1:06 PM

The Gilder Center will be a disaster for the neighborhood around the Columbus Avenue side of the Museum of Natural History. I have lived on West 74th Street and Columbus since 1972. I vigorously oppose this expansion of the museum. Patricia Still

# **AMNH Expansion**

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	AMNH Expansion
From	Alfred Szymanski
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 15, 2017 2:44 PM

#### Dear Mr. Wells,

Unfortunately, I cannot attend the meeting scheduled for this evening at which I had hoped to make a proposal. I've been a resident of West 79th Street since 1980 and I enjoy visiting the AMNH, so much so that I volunteer there. I also enjoy the park very much that surrounds the museum. With the loss of parkland as a result of the museum expansion, would the Parks Department consider opening up the expansive lawns along West 81 Street or even West 77th Street. The park could add new paths and seating areas instead of all the fencing. It's a lot of space just for squirrels and pigeon. The dogs have their run why not give park visitors more space to relax and enjoy the park. It may be a nice trade-off for having to reduce parkland appease some of the neighbors.

Yours truly, Alfred Szymanski

# Suggestion

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	Suggestion
From	Carol Tannenhauser
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Wednesday, June 14, 2017 10:44 PM

Dear Mr. Wells

The only thing about the museum expansion that is still hurting my heart is the demise of the seven trees. Could you put their remains to some good and fitting use, to honor them?

Sincerely, Carol Tannenhauser

Sent from my iPad

#### Wells, Owen (Parks)

From: Holland Taylor <hollandtaylor@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 24, 2017 9:31 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

**Subject:** Gilder Center = disaster for a neighborhood already blessed but also burdened by two

museums

Dear Owen Wells,

While every new cultural and educational organization should have an automatic welcome, to a degree, I have read a great deal about the proposed Gilder Center, and I find many serious reasons to suggest that it should not be part of the American Museum of Natural History's campus at all.

Several arts institutions in New York City have placed new wings, devisions, galleries, in parts of town far from the mother organization. While the decisions may largely have been made because there was insufficient room at the original site, the happy result is neighborhoods very much in need of a destination, have museum wings and galleries, and extensions of great popular organizations to suddenly attract visitors, new residents, businesses, and all the bustling activity that makes a part of town thrive and extend its identifying character.

The 79th Street area benefits from two great museums cheek by jowl... but many would say that all the neighborhood services are severely tested by the *present* activity. Can there be 800,000 MORE visitors a year, 4,298 more arrivals (and departures) every eight hours of every day, all coming in via the once quiet, once tree protected Columbus ave entrance? That's on average *over five hundred* people a <u>hour</u> coming and going. Nine a minute, from opening to closing.

Now arriving guests walk amongst toddlers learning to throw a ball, and older denizens sitting on the park benches that lined the walk way—k ids and elders with their dogs, teens reading their school books, people actually studying the flora and fauna itself in the small neighborhood sanctuary. The majestic, sprawling brick and stone fronted building of the museum stands like a grand old lady, accompanied by the equally stately New York Historical Society. The Columbus entrance will be massively turned into something that looks like a grotesque, flat, cheap version of the Guggenheim. The rendering published by the museum is in such contrast to the present museums entrance it draws gasps. It's hard to imagine an uglier more out of place entrance, huge and looming, where once was (and still is) a shady, human sized welcome. The new structure, as proposed, will not be full of science displays and exhibitions. It will, in fact, be empty. A vast atrium, serving no real purpose, just a dramatic vanity project, a place for galas and press events, as if the museum doesn't already have many spaces, many vast spaces, superbly suited to those needs.

If this is really turns out to be a huge vanity project, every city official from the Mayor on down, including every official who did not attend the June 15th hearing, will have a lot to answer for.

The health of the neighborhood is threatened by the chemicals and toxins brought into our atmosphere by the huge digging to a thirty foot depth, the destruction of current structures, and the 3-5 years of building that is expected. I live on 79th St. between Columbus and Amsterdam. I will be affected by the additional thousands who will arrive on my subways and walk down my street daily. I will breathe the filthy air, I will hear the noise all day for years, I will say goodbye to the trees at the end of my street. I will also regret that 130 Million tax dollars, some of them mine, were spent on what feels like the bully wishes of a private institution, an institution which is ignoring what the VAST majority of the neighborhood dwellers actually want.

That NOT ONE city official attended that June 15th meeting, supposedly the last such opportunity, is a shock a shame and a disgrace. WHOM are those officials working for? Richard Gilder?

This is a bad situation, and one that brings a very dark shadow over an institution long loved by a huge public. If this plan goes through as described, the reputation of the Museum will be permanently scarred. It it not something people will forget and get over.

This is as bad a city supervised direct betrayal of the public as I have been aware of in my long life. It will be spoken of and written about for years—there will be many who will not live it down.

I can only hope that the brakes can still be put on this reckless, feckless, arrogant plan.

I am amazed it has gotten this far. I'll wager you can show evidence of NO public support. And yet, the city moves ahead with it. You have to understand, there is Karma for an offense like this.

As bad as this looks, I will still hold hopes that officials who bear responsibility for shepherding plans of this nature will act on their actual duty: to protect and defend the public.

Sincerely,

Holland Taylor 145 West 79th St. 12D New York, NY 10024

# Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Holland Taylor
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 01, 2017 2:54 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Not to mention the ruinous crowding brought to an area already choked with visitors to two major museums. Eight hundred thousand additional yearly arrivals during business hours to the Columbus Entrance is about <u>two hundred and seventy people</u> arriving by foot or cab every HOUR. Eleven a MINUTE. And obviously that is not spread out during the whole day, but much more intensely in the morning and late afternoon hours. This is a night mare to contemplate, and it is impossible to imagine what the blasting and construction period (three-four years?) will be like on this already congested area.

There are neighborhoods all over New York which would benefit immeasurably by having a museum destination. It would have infinite benefit to place this new science museum in a neighborhood it would only improve. But there is NO excuse to destroy this Natural History Museum and Historical Society area altogether.

Were this proposal made for the totally vacant vast south lawn which goes from Columbus Ave. to Central Park West along 77th St, it would have been stopped instantly by the extraordinarily wealthy apartment dwellers on that protected and quiet street. Never mind that one of the museum's original entrances is there. Really, on the face of it, this current plan for the Gilder Center creates a subtraction of park and dog walk areas, removal of trees, and permanent mess for everyone *but* the 77th St. denizens.

Sincerely,

Holland Taylor 145 West 79th St. June 26, 2017

Owen Wells, Director of Environmental Review
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401
New York, New York 10065

RE: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) by AKRF Inc.

Dear Mr. Wells:

Please herewith accept my comments and excuse any typos in my letter.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) by AKRF Inc. dated May 18, 2017 on the land grab, er expansion, by the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) and its expansion into Teddy Roosevelt Park is nothing but a flawed joke.

#### Report Not Independent and Inaccurate

I concur with nearly every comment made by citizens at the AMNH public forum on June 15<sup>th</sup>. At a time when New Yorkers need every inch of natural outdoor space we can get, we cannot afford to lose a foot.

Most glaring is the fact that The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is not independent. It was written by a firm hired by the AMNH. This must disqualify it as meaningless in the first place.

I have been a resident of the Upper West Side (UWS) for nearly forty years so I can attest that many of the underlying assumptions of the DEIS as well as conclusions are faulty.

Anyone with some foresight can understand what the museum expansion will do to the UWS community due to the loss/reallocation of parkland, exponential growth in tourism, the threat of significant toxic overload, traffic and congestion—the list goes on and on.

#### Flawed Executive Summary

As a business professional I have written many executive summaries. You write the conclusions of the study or project up front. This summary writes the laudatory reasons the museum needs an expansion up front thus proving that the AKRF DEIS is not independent but in service to the AMNH. It goes on to breathlessly describe all the goodies that the expansion will bring—to the museum. Again, it is obvious this was written for the entity that paid for it, AMNH. It takes some time before the DEIS ES starts to discuss the impact of the project. And most of its statements regarding impact as perfunctorily dismissed with the equivalent of a hand wave and no supporting facts or study. I include many of these flawed statements below.

#### Flawed Thinking Due to Hubris

The sheer ego and hubris involved in this project is astonishing. A man needs his name plastered on a big building and a tax write off. The museum wants to make money servicing the uber wealthy by renting space for special events. But the actual people in the neighborhood who will suffer dire impositions of construction noise and dust, traffic congestion, further huge influxes of museum goers, a bottleneck on Columbus Avenue, the loss of our greenmarket, are expected to pay the price.

In my opinion, this land grab is illegal and

On a personal note, I'd like to add that I was lucky enough to grow up in a house sited on a quarter acre of land. A quarter acre of land is a huge amount of space.

#### Design is Seriously Ugly

I'd like to also note that the architectural design of the proposed facility heinous. Parkland supports a human being's yearning for beauty in an increasingly ugly world. With this design instead of parkland we get a design not in keeping with the original structure with heavy uses of concrete foulness. It looks as though the designers' thinks we should return to cave-man days.

#### Specific DEIS Statements that are Inaccurate

I now list report specifics that I have a problem with. A commonsense reading of any of the statements below make them laughable:

• "Total Museum attendance and utilization has grown over the past 20 years, from approximately 2.77 million annually in 1994 to approximately 5 million in 2015." (DEIS Executive Summary S-3)

The museum says it needs more space, but any visitor will tell you that HUGE amounts of the museum go unused. Further research facilities do not have to be located at the Museum itself. The new addition is clearly meant to be used as an event space.

The figures above only point to how over taxed the UWS neighborhood around the museum already is, and we cannot afford the additional congestion of the projected visitors that the expansion would create.

Despite stating that it doesn't have enough space for visitors on page S-15, the DEIS admits that future attendance is expected to be flat without the expansion.

• "Absent the proposed project, annual ticketed visitation is estimated to grow at less than 1 percent per year, reaching approximately 4.4 million ticketed visitors by 2021. Based on historic attendance, non-ticketed attendance is expected to remain roughly flat at the current figure of approximately 900,000 per year. Therefore, accounting for non-ticketed attendance, total

attendance, and utilization would be approximately 5.3 million by 2021, without the proposed project." (page S-15)

This is circular reasoning at its worst. <u>The museum actually does not need more space.</u> Its own projections show future flat attendance. What is it with this more, more attitude you find all over America today?

If museum staff is unable to correctly allocate the HUGE amount of space it already has, then the staff is not doing its jobs. And if the AMNH doesn't attract more people, that again is the fault of the staff. The price of admission certainly deters everyone I know.

Since the neighborhood barely contains the current level of attendance it is good and right that attendance should remain flat. Let it remain so.

What is it with MORE MORE MORE? What is wrong with the current level of attendance. The neighborhood is already engorged with littering food-cart chomping attendants. We cannot sustain more of these people.

- "The improvement of existing land uses within the project site would not result in a significant adverse impact on adjacent land uses in the study area, as the proposed project would not affect land use conditions outside of Theodore Roosevelt Park." (page S-17)
- "While the project would increase the number of Museum visitors and stimulate more activity on the Columbus Avenue side of the complex, this change would not overburden Park facilities, as the reconfigured Park paths would be expected to accommodate the anticipated pedestrian flow and there is a substantial supply of accessible open space in the immediate vicinity." (page S-18)

The report itself admits that a huge swath of Teddy Roosevelt park will be taken over during the construction:

• "Portions of Theodore Roosevelt Park would be closed for the duration of the approximately three-year-long construction period to accommodate the construction of the proposed project. While a temporary displacement, this loss of open space would not result in a significant adverse impact."

Three years is NOT TEMPORARY. It is an outright lie that it will not have a significant impact. AKRF seems to completely disregard that thousands of people actually use Teddy Roosevelt park every week.

This is moving the congestion on CPW where there is space for it and keeps all the interlopers away from neighbors—directly into our neighborhood on Columbus. There are broad pathways on each side of CPW for the interlopers, yet they have to invade our quiet.

As for the idea that "a substantial supply of accessible open space" is located nearby is inaccurate. Central Park is no longer open space. The citizens of New York City have lost Central Park to marauding hordes of littering troglodyte tourists. Central Park is not our park, nor is it available to us. Teddy Roosevelt is not being given up to those self-same tourists as well. When will the actual citizens of this city count?

I also object to the fact that, ultimately, after we lose about a quarter of our park to construction vehicles, the planned changes to existing parkland not involved in the new footprint involve more terracing (ostensibly for exponentially more people). <u>Humans do not need more concrete walkways, we need GREEN</u>. It is rather horrifying that the museum doesn't get this. I bet most of the staff lives out of town in the suburbs, commute in and use that palatial parking garage at the museum.

• Overall, the proposed project would be consistent with the existing character of the neighborhood and would not result in any significant adverse impacts on neighborhood character. (page )S-25

Again as an UWS resident for nearly forty years, I can put the lie to this statement. Stealing parkland and importing another 15,000 people a week most certainly does change the character of the neighborhood.

The character of the neighborhood will irrevocably change. A key part of that character is the sidewalk liking the AMNH side of the Columbus Avenue. This has long been a place to stroll and rest under the beautiful trees. Furthermore the Sunday greenmarket there is a destination for the whole neighborhood. 750,000 more visitors a year will affect, noise, congestion, room to walk on the sidewalk, parking, everything.

Furthermore, the MTA functionality is failing. Our subway lines simply cannot afford anymore riders to and from the museum. They already significantly impact our commutes to work.

The DEIS took ZERO consideration of subway impact.

We on the UWS have lost fully half of all our parking spaces to bike lanes and Citibike docking stations. There are no parking spaces for any more visitors.

And how exactly did AKRF arrive at this opinion? Did it conduct a real poll of the users of the park? There is ZERO statistical methodology to support this statement. <u>The only methodology supporting this</u> statement is the fact that the evaluator works for the AMNH.

• "Based on the construction trip projections, construction of the proposed project would result in significant adverse traffic impacts, during peak construction, at one study area intersection in the weekday PM construction peak hour—Columbus Avenue and West 81st Street. The significant adverse impact at the Columbus Avenue and West 81st Street intersection could be fully mitigated by applying minor temporary shifts in signal timing." (page S-27)

#### Please note what was analyzed:

#### TRAFFIC

Traffic conditions were evaluated at nine intersections for the weekday midday, weekday PM, and Saturday peak hours. In the 2021 With Action condition, significant adverse traffic impacts were identified at four intersections during the analysis peak periods. **Table S-1** provides a summary of the impacted locations by lane group and analysis time period. Potential measures to mitigate the projected traffic impacts are described in Chapter 17, "Mitigation."

Table S-1 Summary of Significant Adverse Traffic Impacts

Intersection		Weekday Midday	Weekday PM	Saturday Peak
EB/WB Street	NB/SB Street	Peak Hour	Peak Hour	Hour
West 77th Street	Columbus Avenue	110000		SB-L
West 81st Street	Central Park West		WB-L	WB-L
West 77th Street	Central Park West		1	NB-LT
Total Impacted Intersections/Lane Groups		0/0	1/1	3/3
Notes:   =   eft Turn T	Through, R = Right Turn.	DefL = Defacto Left Turn, E	B = Fastbound WB =	Westbound NB =

Notes: L = Left Turn, T = Through, R = Right Turn, DefL = Defacto Left Turn, EB = Eastbound, WB = Westbound, NB = Northbound, SB = Southbound.

As stated at the meeting, the peak time of pedestrian traffic in this area is on SUNDAY. The fact that Sunday was not included in the report ALONE reflects the poor ability of the AKRF.

Again AKRF did not do its job by not adequately analyzing the impact on Columbus Avenue. This is insensible and incredible.

The AMNH is moving its main entrance from Central Park West, which has broad sidewalks on TWO sides of the street for tourists to gather to Columbus Avenue, THE major southbound artery of the UWS.

This avenue is will be significantly and negatively affected by moving the main entrance. First by construction vehicles, then by visitor buses that are proposed to be lined up there. The Columbus Avenue side of the museum has long been a place where locals stroll and sit at all hours of the day. It doesn't take a genius to understand that the proposed expansion plan is going create a huge bottleneck for traffic and pedestrians on Columbus Avenue for years to come.

West 77th Street is a barely used street. There are barely any cars driving up and down that block <u>ever</u>. The parkland on that side of the museum is closed to the public. There is a huge beautiful existing

entrance to the museum there. What bone head decided to move the main entrance to Columbus Avenue. And how can AKRF not even evaluate the impact on Columbus in its report?

The idea that buses will be moved to Columbus Avenue when this whole street is empty is ridiculous. WHO came up with all these poor plans?

• "The proposed project would not result in any significant air quality impact" (S-23)

Thanks to the bottleneck discussed above, stopped traffic and idling buses will significantly pollute the area with exhaust and honking horns. Let's not even talk about the pile up of idling "black cars" and limousines for all the special events that are the real purpose of this expansion. Later in the report the AKRF admits to a significant adverse impact due to construction. So construction vehicles with their diesel fumes apparently do not cause a negative air quality impact? I can attest that a person is functionally poisoned by idling trucks.

• "The proposed project would not result in any significant adverse noise impacts."

Another miserably laughable statement. Since this tidy statement is clearly only talking about the finished product in five to seven year's time, let me say that with traffic bottlenecks and the attendant honking horns on Columbus Avenue and thousands of more tourist milling about Columbus Avenue, there will indeed be significant increases in noise

Again a joke putting the qualifications of the evaluator into serious question.

• "While the expected levels of noise are typical of New York City construction projects and would comply with all New York City Noise Control Code and DOB restrictions on construction noise, the level and duration of construction noise at these buildings would constitute a temporary significant adverse noise impact under SEQRA and CEQR." (S-28)

This statement illustrates AKRF's inherent bias towards their employer the AMNH. The first clause makes clear that the construction would be in compliance, thus softening the blow that even AKRF can't sweet talk the fact that years of construction will have a significant adverse noise impact.

<u>Three years is not temporary</u>. And based on my many years of observing contractor performance around the city, they never achieve project deadlines. We are talking five to seven years in reality.

I have been living on a street where one brownstone after another is converted back to a single family home. Even this is small scale construction creates intolerable levels of noise and toxic dust. You have no idea how noisy carting away debris is. And this is nothing compared to what is proposed at the AMNH, which is demolishing entire building parts and jackhammering stories deep into the ground. Just the incessant backup beeps of all the construction vehicles will be intolerable not to mention the decibel levels when they are going forward—backhoes and dumpsters etc.

Do you have any idea how toxic idling construction machinery is for air quality?

Once again the idiocy of the design is called into question. Public parkland is being sacrificed to the the musuem's voraciousness. It was the 77<sup>th</sup> Street entrance that should have been redesigned. The barely used block of West 77<sup>th</sup> street should have been the area closed for construction vehicles.

The AMND's complete lack of consideration for the residents of the UWS and its selfishness gave it zero pause when it decided to imbark on this massively narcisstic plan.

We are a community that is weary, weary of endless construction, weary of traffic exhaust, noise and congestion, and weary of sharing our subways and public parkland with millions of tourists.

And above all, we are weary that we are not represented and our voices are not heard. Our community boards are not elected by us and don't represent us, our public officials don't represent us.

And we feel totally betrayed by the AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY because they have belied every word in their name. Bulldozing this project through despite local protest is UNAmerican, the use of public parkland reflects the total unconcern for nature and the public's need for the natural world and, finally, the project significantly disrupts the history and character of the Upper West Side by reconfiguring the park, the museum itself as well as Columbus Avenue.

Will you betray us all as well?

The Parks department should be the steward of all that is natural and beautiful in New York City, please uphold this sacred trust and protect our beautiful Teddy Roosevelt Park.

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Marie Timell

## AMNH Gilder Center - comment

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	AMNH Gilder Center - comment
From	Margaret A. Tobin
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 16, 2017 2:46 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center. In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment." I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

As it is currently envisioned, a major expansion of the 79th Street entrance will bring to a stop the neighborhood's quiet enjoyment of the park area. On Sundays, the farmers market is a lovely neighborhood magnet which WOULD NOT be able to operate if the Gilder Center becomes a 4th major entrance into the museum. Columbus Avenue is already backed up with truck traffic, bike lanes, taxis, the buses (both M79 crosstown and the 2 downtown buses M7 and M11). A new major entrance would make the noise and pollution levels intolerable and not safe for children or any pedestrians. The 3 major museum entrances are either set back far from the street (81st and 77th Street entrances) or the only thing happening for FOUR city blocks (Central Park West). The backside of the museum allows the 79th Street area to be used locally, rather than dominated by regional uses. That the 4th side belongs to the neighborhood and is already actively used by the neighborhood should be self-evident. It simply cannot be appropriated by the museum to use as it sees fit. The park, the sidewalk where the farmers market happens, and Columbus Avenue which is already past capacity cannot absorb any further encroachment by a museum which already has 3 major entrances.

Please spend some time on the 79th Street side and watch how it is already being fully used today. I think you will agree that the Gilder Center will radically change the character and nature of the current uses, negatively impact the neighborhood, and literally destroy the farmers market as well as make Columbus Avenue unfit for human life.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

Margaret Tobin 5 West 86th Street, 10E New York, NY 10024

917-226-6241

#### Wells, Owen (Parks)

From: Robert Weingarten < weingarten.bob@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, June 25, 2017 8:14 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Cc: Claudia DiSalvo

Subject: AMNH Public Comment

Owen Wells

Director of Environmental Review

New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

The Arsenal, Central Park

830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401

New York, New York 10065

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: <a href="mailto:owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov">owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov</a>

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to beg you, as the Director of Environmental Review of the Department of Parks and Recreation, and therefore as someone who we must hope cares about keeping what remains of living nature alive, not to allow the American Museum of Natural History to eat into or destroy any part of the beautiful ring of trees, grass, paths and parkland that surrounds it. Please reject the current AMNH plan for the Richard Gilder Center.

The Upper West Side is so crowded with people and buildings and traffic and noise; we have so little around us that is green and quiet, and Theodore Roosevelt is such a precious living sanctuary in this endlessly bustling city. Don't let it be turned into a meeting place and spillover hangout spot for the swarms of visitors who will flood the streets from Broadway to Columbus Avenue as they make their way to this major new museum entrance, disturb the calm of the park, eat food from vendors who will line Columbus Avenue from 77<sup>th</sup> to 81<sup>st</sup> Streets, drop litter and garbage beside overstuffed trash cans or on the paths themselves, inviting more rodents to come out of their holes. Because that's surely what will happen if the Gilder Center is allowed to go forward with its present plan.

That's the long term effect on the park, beyond the building taking up a quarter acre, not to mention the concrete walkway to its entrance. But it's in the short term, too, that Theodore Roosevelt Park will be horribly spoiled. Whoever wrote in the Draft EIS that closing large portions of TR Park for the duration of the approximately three-year-long construction period (even if that period does only take three years) "would not result in a significant adverse impact" because "other open space resources... such as Central Park would accommodate the largely passive recreation activities displaced from the affected area," either had no idea what he or she was talking about, or was glossing over the loss it would be to the people who now enjoy TR Park's "largely passive recreation activities," — and there are many such people, even if the Draft EIS writers see the park as being little used.

Theodore Roosevelt Park is a magical place where elderly people can read and chat together in peace, and young parents with toddlers can teach their children the fundamentals of walking, running and riding tricycles. While there's no doubt that Central Park is also an open space where elderly people can read and chat, and young parents can teach their toddlers first steps, Theodore Roosevelt Park is quieter than Central Park, and easier of access for many, and cherished precisely because of its sweet feeling of family intimacy.

Using the logic of the Draft EIS writers, why not tear down at least half the Catholic churches in New York, since the largely passive praying activities that go on in them could easily be accommodated by St. Patrick's Cathedral?

Please do not let this unnecessary manifestation of the arrogance of the powerful few to get their way just because they can, and despite public opposition, destroy this lovely, green and pleasant space on the Upper West Side. Once it goes, it will be gone forever!

Sincerely yours,

Robert Weingarten

147 West 79th Street

New York, NY 10024

June 16, 2017

Mr. Owen Wells
Director of Environmental Review
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401
New York, NY 10065

Dear Mr. Wells,

I live just blocks for Theodore Roosevelt Park, and I hope to see it saved for the many ways it contributes to the mental health of human and canine New Yorkers and the actual lives of birds and other wildlife.

Moreover I am very concerned about what the Draft Environmental Impact Statement of May 18<sup>th</sup> has revealed:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs, industrial solvents, and arsenic were found in both soil and water samples.

There are serious threats to our air, soil, and water quality in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

These findings add a chilling specificity to the original findings of the The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, that "the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it will significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely.

Susan B. Whitlock

49 W. 84mst., Apt. 1

Sugar B. Whitlack

New York, NY 10024

From: Marilee <marileewyman@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 3:00 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: T.R. Park

Sir,

I beg you to oppose the AMNH's proposed expansion into T.R. Park. *Any* loss of park space in this city should be opposed.

Though the museum says they'll replace some of the old-growth trees that would be destroyed it will not be possible to EVER recreate the scale of the current trees if they excavate for new garage space, as there wouldn't be enough soil depth for roots to support large trees.

Just because T.R. Park is adjacent to Central Park it does not justify agreeing to AMNH's plan. The construction itself will impact the park and surrounding neighborhood for years both while in process and forever after. The environmental report reveals a variety of deadly toxins that will be released by excavation, polluting the neighborhood and endangering lives. The design itself does not take into account that birds will unwittingly fly into the large glass walls and die.

The only benefit from this construction is to the museum's bottom line.

Please do not support this project.

Sincerely, Marilee Wyman 141 West 80 Street, 1R New York, NY 10024

# I oppose the AMNH Gilder Center

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:12 AM

Subject	I oppose the AMNH Gilder Center
From	jsyodowitz@gmail.com
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 06, 2017 4:34 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I reside at 50 W. 77th Street, across the street from the AMNH. I oppose the AMNH's Gilder Center.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement identifies the existence of hazardous materials, contaminants and fill of unknown origin in both soil and ground water samples. If the project is built, these damaging substances will endanger neighbors like me and the general public.

There is also no valid justification for AMNH to destroy finite parkland to construct its new project. If expansion is absolutely necessary for AMNH to survive and thrive, it should reconfigure its existing space rather than increase its footprint by usurping irreplaceable park property. And if the project does proceed in some form, its physical size must be scaled back significantly to avoid adverse impacts, without occupying additional parkland.

I am strongly opposed to this project. It has significant adverse impacts on the environment and neighborhood. Please stop it now.

Sincerely,

Joel Yodowitz Sent from my iPhone

# Theodore Roosevelt park

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:12 AM

Subject	Theodore Roosevelt park
From	Ariella Zirkind
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Sunday, June 04, 2017 10:06 PM

#### Director Wells,

I hope this finds you well. I'm writing in regards to the proposed plans for the American Museum of Natural History to expand their building into what is currently the Theodore Roosevelt park.

I have lived on the upper west side for five years. In that time my husband and I have had three daughters, and we bring them to this park on a daily basis.

Destroying this park has negative environmental impacts that are certainly obvious to you, so that's not why I'm emailing. I wanted to reach out because this park is a huge piece of the vibrancy and beauty of the upper west side neighborhood.

It is a place where children make new friends and learn. It is a space to relax and unwind. It is a huge part of how accessible the museum is to neighborhood moms. On Sunday's it is packed with locals snacking on fruit from the farmers market. I could go on and on about how loved and well used this park is.

The thought of this park being gone is truly heartbreaking and I hope you will be able to prevent the museum from going ahead with their plans. As you know, living in the city parks are like our backyards and this space in particular is home to me.

Thank you for your time and for all of your work,

Ariella

--

Ariella Zirkind 917.494.2512 Onehundredblessings.com

Please add my name to the thousands who have signed petitions to protect Teddy Roosevelt Park.

I oppose the takeover of any more of this public parkland by the American Museum of Natural History.

Signature	Email	Volunteer?	Donate?
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Stacy Manus	Staubnews agnator		
Esther Corgo	917-748 4704		
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I oppose the takeover of any more of this public parkland by the American Museum of Natural History.

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I oppose the takeover of any more of this public parkland by the American Museum of Natural History.

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# PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

# I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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Name

Address/Zip Code

Email (Please Print)

I'll Volunteer Contact me to help for a donation

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Ruoy THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK! COMMUNITY UNITED TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK Address/Zip Code Email (Please Print) I'll Volunteer Contact me martha Breen 130 W. 945 And MARHAGheen donation JASON Kellman 95W95St NTN/1000 JKellman 32@gnailicon # FMAII info Josephine DAVIELL Josephine 357 aya how.con. " Aube Swain \* House sweet courses by west 86th St. Christma correa 2 @col.com
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NY NY 10024 one less drive @ gmail. com

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# **Petition to Save Theodore Roosevelt Park**

Thank You for Signing! Save Theodore Roosevelt Park in its entirety from encroachment by opposing the American Museum of Natural History's expansion application. Urban Green spaces must be preserved!

Signature	Address	EMAIL (please print legibly)
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## **Petition to Save Theodore Roosevelt Park**

Thank You for Signing! Save Theodore Roosevelt Park in its entirety from encroachment by opposing the American Museum of Natural History's expansion application. Urban Green spaces must be preserved!

Printed Name	Signature //	Address	EMAIL (please print legibly)
ELIZABETH ADAM	Elliphites	127 W. 82 nd St #74 18329	HANSIAHAM (a) KEYMUIT COM
SALLY SHAPIRO		50 W.77 St. #4,0024	Stapiro @ lineollege.edu
Misa Webilkar	Willelie	130 w 79 St	Musa klebri kou@quail com
LAKRY MEYERS	Sufe	150 W 7974	11M150 @ AoL. Com
ElectaArenal	All	172 W. 79St. (5G)	[about to change] it all (212) 362-7667
Roberta Wolf	Roleith W 14	NVC 100 211.	REWINDIOZ@ad.com
Michael BWolf	Michael B. Wolf	O H LI H II	EKimFlow8@aol.com
John Benson	Flux Reuser	205 W. 804 #ZB	JLB1@ columbia, eda
Michael Walls	1. Michel Wale	225 Central Park West Apt 1507	john michael ricciardi walls @ q mail. com
Sherrie Murphy	Sherris Murphy	225 Central Pak West-(0024	Smurphy1005@nyc. rrscom
Anna Lehmann	All Ills	108 W.75 th St #2 10023	anna_lehmann@hotmail.com
Barbara Berlin	Baylon Stell	130 W. 79th St #128	barbaraberlin @gmail.com
AZEB DEST	Robbert	147 W 85st 10024	arebd@nyc.vr.com

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Page	First Name	Last Name	Address	Email
	Will Volunteer AN	ID Donate		
3	John	Samson	162 W. 80th St.	johndsamson@gmail.com 🎺
3	Kafie	Northy	162 W. 80th St.	johndsamson@gmail.com
3	Gray	Newman	171 W. 79th St.	graynewmail@gmail.com 🗸
3				
	Zack	Noren	175 W. 79th St.	/
3	Alison	Zimmer	147 W. 79th St.	alisonzimmer@gmail.com ✓
7	Doug	Jacob	147 W. 79th St.	doug@jwalkny.com √
5	Nancy	Gibson	51 W. 81st St., #7J	nancy@nancygibson.com /
6	Pauline	Kravath		pkravath@hotmail.com
3	Sam	Anderson	766 Franklin Ave.	s.wallace.anderson@gmail.com \

#### **Volunteer ONLY**

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2	Steve	Bernstein	230 Central Park West	$\mathcal{T}$
7				V
	Suzanne	Masman	140 Riverside Drive	
9	Kevin	Burkett-Caudell	2 Grace Ct., Bklyn, NY 11:	caudellk@mac.com
10	Anne	Kopilak	171 W. 79th St.	akopilak@nyc.rr.com
5	Kate	Nevi	110 W. 69th St.	Kateshaner@gmail.com
6	Lily	Bergoffen		apprehensiveforesight@gmail.com
7	Danielle	Dorsey	320 W. 96th St. 10025	ddeorsey@ksu.edu
9	Ted	Pisarctys	430 Columbus Ave., #1C	tsju38@aol.com
9	Annika	Dronge	2166 Bway, #17C	Annika.Dronge@gmail.com
9	Daniel	Klamer	2166 Bway, #17C	Daniel.klamer@gmail.com

Donte

9	Steve & Jane	Coyle	130 W. 79th St.	Janecoyle@gmail.com
9	Sarah	Allison	2110 Frederick Douglas B	sjallison@mac.com
9	Stephanie	Stern	124 W. 79th St.	sstern@sternco.com
9	Richard	Stern	124 W. 79th St.	richstern@sternco.com
11	Tome	Hanel	601 W. 139th St.	tomih4@gmail.com
11	James	Sproule?	601 W. 139th St.	jsproule84@yahoo.com
11	Ro	Paiz	25 Hillcrest Ave., CT	rosariopaiz@yahoo.com
12	Pamela	Lubell	60 W. 76th St.	pamelalubell1@gmail.com
13	Gabriel	Arce-Rollins	110 Riverside Dr., #9D	riocabo@gmail.com
3	Kate	Davids	345 E. 81st St., #15G	kate.m.davids@gmail.com
	Danata ONLY			

#### **Donate ONLY**

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	DOMES ONE			
6	John	Freel	145 W. 79th St.	johnfreel006@gmail.com
6	Maria	Mark	163 W. 79th St.	breath365@love.com
6	Spence	Halperin	147 W. 79th St.	spence147@gmail.com
9	Nicholas	Wolfson	175 W. 79th St.	nw@nicholaswolfson.com
9	Alexandra	Geis	POB 1448, NY	Alexandra@thegoodbatchband.com
9	Sharon	Oberfield	645 WEA	sharon.oberfield@gmail.com
10	Cordelia	F.	POB 1448, NY	HQ@alexandraH.com
10	R.	Kapa	4223 Bachwood	rajanikap@yahoo.com
10	Christy	Turner	51 W. 81st St., #2CD	ct8687@yahoo.com
3	Anne	Fels	40 W. 77th St. #16E	felsanna@gmail.com
5	Linda	Bloom	113 W. 82nd St.	lbloom2@me.com
5	Jenny	Deady	717 9th Ave., #5A	jdeady@gmail.com
6	Susana	Vivaros		suvivaras@hotmail.com
6	Peter	Coley		petercoley@me.com
6	Mary Anne	Nidiry	170 W. 81st St., #1F	maridiry@yahoo.com
10	Abraham	Bridger	145 W. 79th St.	gail.bridger@hotmail.com

Jesse Sacks Newlin 10 Andrew Sid Paiz 11 Brayshaw 12 Jocelyn 12 George Carranza Feigiu 3 Nina 3 Hanna Altman Rosager Lars

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144 W. 10th St., #17 902 Amsterdam, #9 25 Hillcrest Ave., CT 100 W. 80th St., #8E 141 W. 75th St., 219 W. 81st St. 15 W. 81st St. 148 W. 80th St., #4F jesse.sacks@gmail.com adnewlin@gmail.com sidneypaiz@aol.com jocelyn.brayshaw@gmail.com georgecarranza14@gmail.com ninjacf@aol.com hannaaltman@gmail.com l20146@aol.com

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Please add my name to the thousands who have signed petitions to protect Teddy Roosevelt Park.

I oppose the takeover of any more of this public parkland by the American Museum of Natural History.

	Signature	Email	Volunteer?	Donate?	
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A	Jacquelyn de Villiers	jacidevilliers@gm	A comment		
The particular property of the particular pa	GYS DE VILLERS	gysdev@gmail.com			
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# SE PRINT EMAIL Address GaleARIVAPETITION TO SAVE THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK Thank you.

Jichard Gilder Center for Science, Education and Innovation, as currently envisaged by the American Museum Latural History, would occupy most of the western portion of Theodore Roosevelt Park at 79th Street. This Lassive project would devour priceless NYC parkland, devastate a beloved community gathering space and intensify congestion in an already high-density neighborhood. Theodore Roosevelt Park is a vital and precious oasis, and we cannot lose it.

#### I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

	Print Name	Signature	Apartment	Email	
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[Return Petitions to Stuart Blumin, 147 West 79th St., Apt. 7C]

Fritz Mueller Omindspring, con

# **Petition to Save Theodore Roosevelt Park**

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Thank You for Signing! Save Theodore Roosevelt Park in its entirety from encroachment by opposing the American Museum of Natural History's expansion application. Urban Green spaces must be preserved!

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# **Petition to Save Theodore Roosevelt Park**

Thank You for Signing! Save Theodore Roosevelt Park in its entirety from encroachment by opposing the American Museum of Natural History's expansion application. Urban Green spaces must be preserved!

Printed Name	Signature	Address	EMAIL (please print legibly)
JIM BARKAS	Jan & Balan	200W79'ST, A. 7-E	J.M. BARKASE BUILDER, BIZ
Tatiana S Barkas	Thomas Derhos	200 W. 79 H. J. JE	tsophiab47@gmail.com
Margareta Becker	Margarete Becker	45 W 81 th St 1612	margaretabeckera yako o
DALE STERN	Wall & Star	200 W. 79Th St. 7B 10024	DALE_STERNOMEN.COM
RICHARD SKOBA	Rhal Shal	157 478 ST MC 10014	R Stobb 10 Adl. Com
JOEZ YODOW.TZ	00	50 W 7775+ 4B	JSYDDOWITZCO GHALLOM
Rhona Selkowite	Marchellow	6102 W.79451#2E 10021	rselkowitzegmail.com
CARolee TROV	Carolae Lear	200 W 79 SX	Bocchie alegizar NET
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Busan Rein.	SierVeir	217 Elast 85/h ot 422 Hy. Mylo	28 Sneina habtead : Com
Carl Kissin	A-i	105 W 755T. #3B 10023	ckissin@me.com
JOHN LEVINE	Fran Levens	105 W 75 ST # 318 10023	jan levinec gnail em
Susan Spieler		230 Central Park West 1002+	

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#### **Petition to Save Theodore Roosevelt Park**

Thank You for Signing! Save Theodore Roosevelt Park in its entirety from encroachment by opposing the American Museum of Natural History's expansion application. Urban Green spaces must be preserved!

Printed Name	Signature	Address	EMAIL (please print legibly)
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Marcos Vargas	1 1 1 /	17 W 1064 St., NYC, NY	
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Judy held	Intelled	444 East 6681 NIC	10



Thank You for Signing! Save Theodore Roosevelt Park in its entirety from encroachment by opposing the American Museum of Natural History's expansion application. Urban Green spaces must be preserved!

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Lydia Thomes	Lyda Dromer	127 West 79, 10024	20 activities 15 e grand com
Tem Dicket	Ten 4 DedA	271 W. 792 St	tdickert@yahocm
Jan Galante	In Doll	62 W 84th St	janmgalante@gmail.co
Tordan Entin	hall to	62 W 84th St	jordanentin@gmail.com
ROSE VAMORES	Khon How then	120 N 8 240 52 M2 1E	RAPMENSION @ Advicom
Corol Martin	and Harten	255 Wi 88th St 7C	carolimartin emacica
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# Community United To Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park

## I /EIGHBOR:

Dear

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Please add my name to the thousands who have signed petitions to protect Teddy Roosevelt Park.

I oppose the takeover of any more of this public parkland by the American Museum of Natural History.

Signature	Email	Volunteer?	Donate?
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FUE MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CLANDIA DISLUCE & MARKYGHUMORDS 327 RO grail com

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## **Petition to Save Theodore Roosevelt Park**

Thank You for Signing! Save Theodore Roosevelt Park in its entirety from encroachment by opposing the American Museum of Natural History's expansion application. Urban Green spaces must be preserved!

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	EMAIL (please print legibly)
Jamien weddle	Jenn Mit	1661 York Ave. Apr. 919	soweddle@grail.com
Susan Javeng	Susar Javas	107 W 87 nd	Savens@ nye. Fr. co
Evilma Sanchez	for to	118 West 78 street	enelina 1760 ginail
Boris Kungov	BK-	8 west 6sst	BokonintaAOL.
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Francisco Vasquez	France Vorg	172 W795	frauja@ gmail.com
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Thank You for Signing! Save Theodore Roosevelt Park in its entirety from encroachment by opposing the American Museum of Natural History's expansion application. Urban Green spaces must be preserved!

Printed Name	Signature	Address	EMAIL (please print legibly)
JUDITH SADFOR	3310	40 PANK PLACE NEW CANAAN, CT 06840	
KATHARING JAY	The table of t	PO BOX 1241 PT. ROYES CA. 94956	
Mikal Petersen	while you	NY, NY 10024	english blokenik 21@hotmail
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COVIY KODKIN	Carrey W	NW YM PM STY	C7 11
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Anthony faukins	all res	166 W77 NYNY	whow orthogo opini from
NOAH GERSON	Multi	630 W 147 NY NY (0031	
Marcela Diaz	Marcela Max	667 Fiverside Dr.	
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CHUSTINE HAGIN	age	551 PLYMONTH RD HILLSIDE PJ 07205	KNITPURLYAM 72@GMAL.COM
Finel V. Jacks	PAUL H. SACKS	30 Fifth Ave. NYNY 1000	MNSadvisors.com

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	EMAIL (please print legibly)
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# I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER GENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

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<u>Name</u>	Address/Zip Code	Email (Please Print) I'll Volunteer to help Com 4274 Cog Mail com	Contact me for a donation
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# I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

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8)	THOMAS PELLEURIO	127 W 877 55	TPELLAND (AHALLOM	
9)	Stefan Shavel	386 Columbus Ave	Stef14@aptraline net	
10)	KUNT SNAM	25 W buth ST SC	Knotsnogeyahoo cen	
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I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

Community United to Protect		THEODO	RE ROOSEVELT PARK!
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#### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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# I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

Name

Address/Zip Code

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#### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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Pil Volunteer to help for a donation

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Please add my name to the thousands who have signed petitions to protect Teddy Roosevelt Park.

I oppose the takeover of any more of this public parkland by the American Museum of Natural History.

Signature	Email	Volunteer?	Donate?
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Stacy Manus	Staubmarus agnator		
Esther Corgo	917-748 4704		
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# SE PRINT EMAIL AddVess GALEARIVITATION TO SAVE THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK Thankyon.

dichard Gilder Center for Science, Education and Innovation, as currently envisaged by the American Museum catural History, would occupy most of the western portion of Theodore Roosevelt Park at 79th Street. This cassive project would devour priceless NYC parkland, devastate a beloved community gathering space and intensify congestion in an already high-density neighborhood. Theodore Roosevelt Park is a vital and precious oasis, and we cannot lose it.

#### I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

	Print Name	Signature	Apartment	Email
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[Return-Petitions to Stuart Blumin, 147 West 70th St., Apt. 7C]

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Thank You for Signing! Save Theodore Roosevelt Park in its entirety from encroachment by opposing the American Museum of Natural History's expansion application. Urban Green spaces must be preserved!

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Signature	Address	EMAIL (please print legibly)	
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Thomas Boshes	200 W. 79 th St. FE	tsozhiab 47@gmail.com	ively
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Marcos Vargas		17 W 1064 St., NYC, NY	
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Printed Name	Signature	Address	EMAIL (please print legibly)
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MURRAY WEINSTOCK	Marron Weinstor	302 WEST 7977 ST-4E	WEINSTOCKMURRAYEME, COM
Tarek Nakhla	12 Nhs	353 Central Park W.	tareknakhla1120gmail-cor
John Dileonardo	the They	97 Lexington Ave, Makery NY	John D@peta.org
WENDY LOBEL	Well For	145W. 7978t, 74, M	WLOBEL CYAHOO. COM
Janet Libert	med	127 W 794951	Janet Libert@ yahoo. com
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Melanne HITISHER	MALL	150 W 79th ST 10024	msfishy158 agmailecom
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Margaret Nobings	M- Neg	65 W 73 2 10023	maggicholonge regnant con
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Linda Faulhaber	In La Fauchde	310 Celumbus Ave	boishera, icloud, com
ROBERT BARDIN	Prishur	415 CENTRAPARIL WEST	rgbarding verizon. net
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Leslie Mantrone	Lehilhenten	101 W.80th St. # 1B NYC 1002	4 leslie. mantrone agmadian
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Printed Name	Signature	Address	EMAIL (please print legibly)
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Printed Name	Signature	Address	EMAIL (please print legibly)
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Leslie Pinkham	JCH -	50 W. 75 ST. #4A (1023	lcp1710@hat mail-com
Claudia Terry	Mand 1-2	170 W 80th St #5 10024	cecterry@hotmail.com
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#### <u>PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK $\circ$ </u>

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3 Jacquie McAlle Jacquie McArdle @gmail.com 229 W. 16 th st. Myc " fran Penz (perez) 176 RIVENSIERR. 1W31 Kari Perez 97@ yahoo.com 100 BEEKMONST, NY 10038 ROSE DURBADROSE COM BOSE FERRARA = Tom SLEVIU QWOST 76HW4. 10023 = Sumita Stevin 8W 76st NM - 10023 24 Michael 10 050 3AZ 5 65 my 10665 25 Toseph Geory 211 W. 146th NY, NY 10036 denbugge @ hotusul com



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### I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

Name

Address/Zip Code

**Email (Please Print)** 

I'll Volunteer Contact me to help for a

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# PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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# I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park

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Name

Address/Zip Code

Email (Please Print)

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\* Milana Papshina 116 W81 ST. milanapaeshina @ yahoo Helen WOLCE 330W72ST \* Nicole Brownskin 151 W87m St Comanship @ grantica NDBrownstagnail.com Lois Van Deusen 35 CENTRAL BARRY Dara Peri 166 W75th St. 10023 lacevandeusen@gmailCo 166 W75th St, 10023 daraper agmail com MilitAR GIAIZENA MARX HAIWARD 67 Gradeword Pocky: He Ceder MGRA 3 PLANTATION RD FAVERS HAM KENT UK MEB SORM MGARTONA CPOD GARROLI/ 400 WESTEND 1004. Milarel Koppele 115 W77th St. 435 100211 Danlabasseme, Com Paula M. Bass 227 CPW 10024 I french @924@ gneil (com 109 W 77th ST #2 Nyclased lindsayebishop@gmail.cm INDSAY MACRAE 175 W 79th 16B 10024 laurenlyall@earthlinkout Lauren Lyall 412 WEA #3B 10024 PATRICIA HAYNUS (



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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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Please add my name to the thousands who have signed petitions to protect Teddy Roosevelt Park.

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Please add my name to the thousands who have signed petitions to protect Teddy Roosevelt Park.

I oppose the takeover of any more of this public parkland by the American Museum of Natural History.

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Eliana Graham	elianagraham03@g	mail.com		



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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

# I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

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<u>Name</u>	Address/Zip Code	Email (Please Print)	I'll Volunteer to help	Contact me for a donation
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# I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

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Diane Finger 44 Maningside Dr

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Robert Biocher 18083 rd St 10024

Sarah Berker 12054

Sarah Berker 12054

Jovanny Vagas 1246 le Place 10463

Michael Comm 944 40 Met 35 Met, 10024

Milliam D'Brian 175 w 72-d Ct 941

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M. Rogers.

P. RAMINIS

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* Florence Janovic	10023	flossjile smail. com		
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Proton and 50 W. 106th St Heydubertant (9 hot mail. & desta @ nyc. rr. com

Dave Suria 510 W. D. apt 1/2 daves who Cymal com

Present Coppan 309 51H APT 23B 18016 JERENE @ 2010N NET Mala & Kasaise 17539 W 112 SI #40 1025 aboudail hotmail.com John Allow 344W. 778 +115 Solver a act com John Henry 54 RSD, Ant. 11-13 john henry 2360 o yo hoo. (and Fraren Subele 317 W93 St SAS Karen. Subelegnail Mitch Naufts 302 W. 87th St. # 3 mfn@foundationcenter. org Kelvin Maljar Saarret C1 (1. Ston N) Hannah Williams 102 W 74h 10023



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Ruth tknness/ I to west End All 118 nyeroth 17 Edgmail.com

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Charles Olson 160 West End to #24T 10023 scarollino egmail.com

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Tevita Heleta 3510 5200 mst gentle tevita. heletalgemail.com

Name Tit.wash 2 FLORA LANE CLAKHEBLIRN V tukunfu@hotmail.com



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"Britainy Gilky 36 W 88Th St 10024 bailroy @gracil

"Dill Gilky " wdgilroy & yakoo

"Sherry Relach 49 w 72St. 10023 shorgreich Oga hob

"There 4220 HAPE PAPPY 27 Dout ode.com

"Shirly Wenty 353 Austerland3-5 shurenburg eichad.com

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Down Gallagha	410 CPW NYC/00:	25 donly gallighe @	Carthele net
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Pluxtum NY June Hugh 06626 gmail.com

Amushi Gosse hert 79 street gessens and @ holmail.com

Allice (other) 250 w775+ 10024

Victoria Schwinning 265 Riverside Dr. 18025 victoria.schwinning@agaail.com

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Jih Zalkin Zalkin etheastorgioupen 142 W.76

Auron Finch 42 W. 83 2 St. acconfinch@gmail.com

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Kaven KitiClaney 107 W.82nd St. #1A kkitzkutz@aol.com

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5 Sam Anderson U	766 Fraklin Ave	S. wallace. anderson@gma: 1. rom	<i>&gt;</i>	34
" hate Davids	345 E. 81954, Apt 156	Kate. m. Davids@quail.com	×	
7 Howard Serbel		horbild (byahor. com)		
8 CARIOS VAAMONDE	129 W. 77 5T / ST / 1	Lyngover con 2002 Custom	ell-edu.	
9 Ja Eddy	164 w. 79th St. Ad 40	jon. eddy Egmail. com		
10 Bonne Pikhan	ING W. 79th SD. Adst	bointhue school an-		
11 Khalil Azm	320B 100tst Apt3A	Kbaalo@yahou.com		
= KAREN WINER	316 WEST 5155 ST. #4F	reniwk@yahoo.com		
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Padhl Familiant 127 west 79th Steet Rachel. Familiante unitopials be

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Will Pala 155 w 8th 1704 while (200 gmail. com

Colleen Burn) 24-24 24th St Astoria burnsmanagement hutmail

Magary Gray 151 W 515+5 Voc Han M Nissengray Ognail. com

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5 Jusan CASSILY		LHSCEVENTS@ AOC	COM	
· Katharine Lalsda	29 W74th 10023	,	***	
Jham Groman	Gor West 2315 Street 10 413	sharongroman@gmail.com		
* Evelyn De Maria	73 W. 71st ST. 10023	piano Tady edm @ gmail.com	non consistence and a second	
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= Sell linder bean	29 West 74th St.			
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- Quentin Danier	265 West &IST APZC	Quentia Dayle Capatmail cam		
= Jennifer Kim	101 W. 87th St. Apt-505	iiajcho@gmail.com		
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Is John Patterson	161 V. 75st #15A 10023	pattersonioha 903@ smail.		

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Mison Regole

6 W77 th St. SC M.N. 18024 aragde anyc. 11.10m

13 Sylvi Stein

51 West 81<sup>3+</sup> Street, NYNY, Sylvistein@hanter schons, org

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"Naomi Rossnor, 1303 w. ce Se nomir@msn.com Danja Levinson 226 Aspen Lane HP 6035 danyabethogmail.com
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An Losner	10468	anntky evelos com		
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Hoger Puckets	172W79419c 100,	24 rogerh puckett @gmil.	com	
Mackenzie ] Jubus	14 012 Smith Rd 07616	24 rogerh Duckett & Gmuil.  Wachte Mzkenzy Egmuil.		
MATT CONKEY	156 Harzesha PV 1500	MONKOY9688@ YETTECOM		
Rosa Reyes	233 W 77 Hh st	tblaster2002@	yahoo.	com
A C+112		gallen (A everizon.	ret	
Dary Hebt	m 323UN	gallen (feverizon.	2 gmal	1. CIN
Peter Serritella	307 W87 = 54.			
Frances Della ava	307 W. 87 St			
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Farmers MKTW (3-6-16 BW)

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#### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

THEODORE ROOSEVEIT PARK Name	Address/Zip Code	Email (Please Print)	l'Il Volunteer to help	Contact me for a donation
· PEGGY Gluck	30 Karge St Bayhead HJ			
= Unin Daufista	174 WOS- 8/ STREET	ban horany c @ Smail low		
Daril Burwasses	Go wat 76 m st.	dowenyc.vr.com		
Laure Laufer	151 W 74M ST 1	laura. 1. hines @ aprial.com		
Shery/ herner	17 hasupette de Deel Ce	ty my shery 67800	26/50M	
PAVEFIRE		DAVEFIRE 1912	gamqik.	
Francos LERRET	7£854 ST	francisher illow		
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Leefe Rouell	, EZE mankallan AVe. 16026	Sanja. Kalabegd VCQ grain	ir.	
Minal Shaman	309 west 86th street	,	,	



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#### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

### I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

Address/Zip Code

Email (Please Print)

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for a donation

JAMMER HAMMOND pmeshammonde man.com

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Mathon chackborn 325 £ 79m St 6.0 schochtman@gmail.com

Benjannin Notworpologic 127 u. 77 s. NYL, NY 10024

William du Pant 145 w 79 5 T 163

Jape Linwriar 50 Vest 42 ppre C pape C pape C consistent for a charles Sacks 127 West 79 5 st. csaks 55 a gminl.com

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Supply Gill 136 west 80 st. 21 suspended address.com

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Susan Beron	164 16.79 57-10024	Sisan beren agnal. con		
DEBRIA LAUREN	186 PINEHURST AVR	Tolk by 212 dete		
* LINDA GOODMAN	12130 BROADWAY ATWICE	23 /lel 6/110		
Anna Fols	40 W 77 h FLET	Celsiana@ small		
Eun-Gyu Lee	101 W 85th of #2-4	eungyulee@ verizionin	et	
MACIO O LISTA	1007			
JEKKY CONL	El 51W. 812/ 100	24 79L		
* John Dray ton	35 W 90 DS1. #74 10024	drafts each com		
Ingrid Nulsan	91 W 86 NY NY 1002L			
Azeb Desta	147 W 855T NYC	10024 adesta @1	14c.87.	COM
= Eva Werbell	320 CPW MYC	10625	1	
Horn Slutzky	21aw 5/ 2.	10074		
4 JOHN RONGA	124W78 ST. W/C	10024 JRONGAEGMAL	Cen	
JONATHAN LEACH	320 W, 90TH STREET	10024		
Manjula Mair	35 WELL NYC	10025 maiss 729@ yahow co	~	



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= JOSEM undell	3e6w 80 125	Jille, Mandell & Ginaililen		No
Matthe	17009 Lathonia	arranda Z Xias elyahora	دن سر	トン
Jenn	170 W73ml St		NO	NO
Blaise	273 coneliast	blaise danie Egnailson	10	20
Andrew	II Los con a	Skeletobot@gmail.wn	7.8	11
* ANA T + Mia	124 W 79th St	- g	40	de
Destiny Bruges	275 CON 15024	DEBNIGE & GICKR- con	NI	No
Kethe Devoll	320 W96 1002S			
Jennifer Abraus	320 W 96 10025	jabrams93@gmail.com	No	No
KEIN+ SCOTT	25 W 78 ST 1004	Keiniscon_, Ochobos	N-	No
SANJA KARARIGONI	CAR manhatlan Av. Gc	Souja outezolia yalvo	N0	ho
SISI YU	271 W 47415.		NI	N
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then Jung La	112-846 9/20	BMGRO-P. B.Z	No	No



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	THEODOR: ROOSEVEIT PARK Name	Address/Zip Code	Email (Please Print)	I'll Volunteer to help	Contact me for a donation
	Lillie ROSENTAL	120W8092 HZ	NYEBODYDOLE MAIL.COM		
	Kate Nevi	110 N. 69th St	Katishaner Dgmail.com	/	
ě	FODEN JAMIS	144W 86 51	yourspace on I com		
	Dana Rousmusser	127 W. 82st	dana-rasmussene me.com		
	David Miller	127 W. 82st	dmillerz97 Cyahoc-com		
	Linda Bloom	113 W82rd st.	16/00m2@me.com		
	Jenny Deady	- A D	joleady@gnail.com		<u></u>
	COLIN Renz	200 W.7912 St	Colinterzegmalian		
	LIZ RENZ	208 W. H ST	lit w@ Enstant Salogue	5. 6	
	NANCY GIBSIN	51 NEST SI ST 7-5			<i>i</i>
	Judith greenly	102 W 75th 87	juditaira @ yshor. Co		
	Rick Derby	1076.75M St.	5 hi prock @ venion.	net	
	Sandra Fong Gi	714	Sanforbo egmailson		
	Maya Mauber	135 W.79 51	mklaus Ggmaile com		
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3	Name	Address/Zip Code	Email (Please Print)	l'il Volunteer to help	Contact me for a donation
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		170 W. 81 55+ 1= 20 MOO 24	manidiry @ yahoo.com		
3	Mary Ame Noting Susona Vivoros	10024	SUVIVAICS & folmer con		2000
4F	Jed Hovet	10624	Ted How @ Yeleso, cay		
Ģ.	Patrice HAYNES	10024			
Ó	hixda De Mec	10021	I_ denier @ yahos.cos		
	Monika Jain	10024	j.monikal gmail com.		
160	Pauline Kravaxh	10823	OKravath Whotma.	_	L
5	ALCXARdra Drayton	1 10024	Sandywdiayten Gall.c	JM	
	52 Vanheetz	10024	Shoshana. Vasheets Guan	l. com	
	NINA CHOTAGO	10023			
	Ally Lubman	10024	Ivbruania agnail co		
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Name	Address/Zip Code	Email (Please Print)	l'Il Volunteer to help	Contact me for a donation
Jean Ctaip	500 West End au, #75			
- Angla SHERM				
Deanna Meyler	189 W 3945 \$ 40 10024			
Barbara Treins	10606 Ranhow Vy Helotes TX 78023			
= Deborch trems	10606 Rainbow W Itelotos 1×79	1023		
Asa Hoffnan	ZYI W 83th ST NY NI	NYCASTS @ G-MAIL W	1~	
Shima Gorgani	505 (dimbis Ave APT Seluzy	S93065 CO NYV. PHU		
A el Bernstein	505 Columbis Am, 10024	thisgoidentead qual com		
Great Unberloop	SUI Stelling IL Booding	guzso@nyu.edu		
Don's long ze	202 8/54 24	duris lozy za@hotmail.com		
Koren Roubins	101 W 75 St 10023	Autry 980 hotmand, con		
Daniel Nee	5 west 95h Street loves	neetdanie 190 gmail. com		
Evelveri Petis	- EVANENIPCSNYB gmails	pu		
Gabriel Arce-Pollins	A 1	rioca bola gnail.com	X	
MAJA HJERTEN	41 ° ')	maaja-@hotmail.com		
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Name	Address/Zip Code	Email (Please Print)	I'll Volunteer to help	Contact me for a donation
1 Adi Zmiri	166 W. 761 St.	ZMITI & MUC. (OM		
2 Libby Evans	150 w785		mak viden a, andrensielen en eingeboortede 10000 telebroorte	
Branco	511 v 232 nd Street 10463	ericheats lauren@gmail		\$ }
- Rulliguas	SOW77 NY NY		Coppose as an implication fact to St prints as a constrainment of prints and a constrainment of the constrainme	
On Sillon We colas	50W77 NY NY 43 chemin de lagar pour	,		
" UMPUGN Anelee	11 11	amail.	biAA !	
Glynn Rudich	173 W 78th St	dynn.rudich@gmgil.c		
* Alusa Torney	320 W. 89 4 St NYC			
Bainera Sizal	15 W B4 St	baibarasiegal@msn.co	x	
Edia Budule	677 WEA		,	
forthe Jewitian	54 RIVERSIDE DI	BARTON PLANSIDG MAIL		
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	Name	Address/Zip Code Email (Please Print)		Contact me for a donation
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2	SUELA AGA	55 W.82 ST RAPAL. MACIACO 140 U 8687 Apl 14A Evelaga Que 140 W 86K Apl 14H Etimmer 626	veb, de YIE	Alte
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L5			Y/N	Y/N



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Steve Room  B Baner	124 078#2 1548W	Syd@coolcode.4Et sdb 7800@gmail.com Leviland@@cl.com		
Femane Pathrole	160 WEND AVE 10 West 28 12 2 56 W 70 80 W. Gaden	BKSHARPE Earthurk,		
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#### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

COMMUNITY UNITED TO PROTECT		THEODORE	ROOSEVELT PARK!
THEODOR ROSSVEI PARK Name Sulpes Brun Nyel	Address/Zip Code 48 N F3 N ST 22 wat 76 street	AUS310@ Carblink. web Email (Please Print) Pobog J @ expelled. not Bnagle Process	I'll Volunteer Contact me to help for a donation
Ari Dan be LIZ AMES	131 W 80 37 W 126M1	ayd 1234@gmail-co	m
Chris Bellini Thomas L. Royste AMERICAN SCAFOOIS	318 Church Rd. Milford NJ. Farmers Marke +	chris. bellin: 1170 gmal con Lee haize @ gmail. com	200
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FM 3/3/16 BWI

#### HEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

#### I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

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Address/Zip Code

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I'll Volunteer Contact me

to help for a Rafael Fox 18 West 87h ST. APT3C rafael Fox @gmail.com BARRY ALTERMAN 3/6 W. S/5 St bgeorge44@gmaller

Fredrik Lophymen 16 w rot fredlof@ hotmailroun

RASHEDA Mitchell 254 matine Am 60 plans to shedamulchelliszerogmal.com

Durell Kn. yhls 124.27 135 tpl.co durellinoy, who co. y

Min RODGERTS 345 E 69 ST. 70 market mac@ ADL. com

W. ISAAREN BROOKEN 148 SSLycoptonline. Act

Servetnick 16/ WZrtzst Snseretnick Dymand

PAPHAEL BEENATI 67 RSD HID 10024 RACHAELERIE EVATION

Jah Winters 542 E 79° St juinfers 1330 mil

Moggiz Winters 542 E 79° St

Robert Deak 161 W 80th rdeak p 1 matryx. oc

E. Bengelsdorf 501 & 875 Apt 14A

Kl. Downer 400 (.P. West

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#### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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Name

Address/Zip Code

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Pil Volunteer Contact me for a donation

2 Shelley Brill 21 Mill Spd Shill Ocry 2 - Cell Clip

2 Garbirl 1090/ Chrill@Mac. 1111

2 Max Extern

13760 Medicles Parill 2 yelico con

3 Max Extern

10023 yelic L kerl @yelico con

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6 Jan Heynun 30 W 36 26 St Art I Million, 100 2 4

7 Caroline Thowas 1(8 West 7 94 & Hu A CThowas 1044 @guid.com

2 Lawra Mathews 4/ West 83 My 4/4 / Mathews 212 @gmail.com

3 10033 rozgalfe egmail.com

3 To Carry

10033 rozgalfe egmail.com

2 Susan Parmany 235 W. 75 8t. 1003 Susantammany@yelico.com

2 Darry/ Thurst 168 W 775t 10084

2 Jul Migher

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#### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK



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Name	Address/Zip Code	Email (Please Print)	I'll Volunteer to help	Contact me for a donation
Wing FeigiN	219 W 81 10024	ninjacto gol com		<u> </u>
Hanna Altman	15 W, 815t	hannaal tran agamail	com	~
* Evace Twesique	BK, My 1/238	grace- tresigna e gunil	TOM	$\gg$
* Lars Rosoder	148 W-80 of Sh. #7/	Tro 1460 ad . com		×
5 Sam Anderson U	766 Fraklin Ave	S. wallace. anderson@qma: 1. rom	<i>&gt;</i>	300
" hate Davids	345 E. 814 St. Apt 156	Kate. m. Davids@quail.com	×	
* Howard Serbel	,	hscibela @yahoo.com		
* CARIOS VAAMONDE	129 W. 77 5T / ST / N	Lyngroved con 2002 @ wed come	ell-edu.	
9 Jan Eddy	164 w. 794 ST. Ad 40	ien. edd, Egmail. com		
10 Bonne Pikhan	145 W. 79th 50. Ad 8th	ppinkline jednil en		
11 Khalil Azun	320B 100 st Apt 3A	Kbaalo@yahou.com		
= KAREN WINER	316 WEST 515 ST. \$4F	reniwk@yahoo.com		
13 ) ARRIL SIGINGER 6	23 Wasr 83 FP ST 1138	DAMOIL. STRINGTER 2 MS. COM		
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FM 3/5/16 BW 4

## COMMENTY UNITED TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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### I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE

THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

Email (Please Print) I'll Volunteer Contact me Name Address/Zip Code to help for a donation Alfred MORABIA 46 W 83 #6H NY12024 alfreds. morabia egmallar

Lawren Nicholas 889 Rivoside Dr 10032 L-Nicholas & Comcastrat

Scott Deaver 110 w & 127 St #5 scott. deaver @g avail. com

Padhel Famillant 127 west 79th Street Rachel. Familante unitopialable Jonathan Ostrorn - Taroch, on jon mossborn ognalion Willow Stelzer 35 w 9 oth St 3k NY10024 willowstelzer@gnail.com Linnan A- Horn mp 101 W.81 Street, 194600 MOST DOCDODERS 55 @ AOL COM Varina Lesse 23 m. 52nd st. 10024 voviekt@gmail.com Shanon Siegel 148 West 76th Apt 18 Shanon Siegel @yahou.com
WIII Price 155 W Get 1701 WPrice 620 e girlsir. com Collegen Buins 24-24 26th St Astoria burnsmanagement notmails

Maggie Grise 7 w. 815 S. \*144 N/N maggiegrise@gnail.com

Maganx Gray 151 W SIST SVER #60 N1 Nissengray Rogmanl.com

Rina Eligha 120W 86d. amima @ 201.com

### FM 3/13/16 BW 5

### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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Name	Address/Zip Code	Email (Please Print)	I'll Volunteer to help	Contact me for a donation
= Erik Levery	1376 Harrison MAHOBS	Erih viill 91@ gmail. com		
2 CAMILA GOVAMANOR	EE 121 w 72	CAMILLACATA REGION. COM	_	
3 JAMES HARRITER	173 W 78th ST	james@jamesharder. com		
+ Ben Kass	GO WTHLSH	Buss 1866 perocen		
5 Susan CASSIDO		LMSCEVents@ AOC	COM	
" Katharine Laksta"	29 W74th 10023			
* Sharm Graman	602 West 231 Street 10 413	sharongroman@gmail.com		
* Evelyn De Maria	73 W. 71st ST. 10023	piano Tady edm @ gmail.com		
9 francist Thomas	NOTER 691 Conjugar VA.			
10 Sell Lindenbeun	27 West 74th St.			
E Chelsea Davies	265 West 815+ AP+ 2C	Chelsealyneea Egmail. com		
-Quentin Davies	265 West 81st APZC	Quentin-Davies Chotmail.com	The state of the s	
= Jennifer Kim	101 W 87th St. Apt-505	ii aicho@amail.com		
14 DR Jeruga Jublar	0 210 W7 8th #1B	Docsnilez Ogmail.	Com	
I John Patterson	161 V. 75st #15A 10023	Docsmilez O gmail.	0.1	
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FM - 3/13/16 BN6

#### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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Theodore Roosevert Park
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Address/Zip Code Email (Please Print) I'll Volunteer Contact me to help for a donation moricacesena agnail on Monica Cesina Obw. 77m St cechem @ cs. com 222W 23 St -237 W 79 SA Ficromez 42 guard.com en Kossoff 375 W. End Are AKCHEMKOS@ AOL andreg jacobson Egmoil tid 45 @ me. com 172 W.795T. a 165 W. 91ST.

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#### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

# COMMUNITY UNITED TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

Name	Address/Zip Code	Email (Please Print)	I'll Volunteer to help	Contact me for a donation
1 Taniya Mishra - Linger	10024	misstmishra@gmail.com		
* EDUNDOS JIMONEZ PONS	10024	ededere agnail com	77+ F07* 07(070)07(070+ 6+ +0000 d)000(00+ 64+ 644)	
Beverley Birks	10029	<b>-</b>		==
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#### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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Comminity United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park Name

Address/Zip Code

Email (Please Print)

I'll Volunteer Contact me to help for a

Katherine Moore 172 West 79th st 8G NYNY Katemoore 201. Com

V Leslie Gersing 110 W. 86 St # 10E LJG 456 2 Msg. com

Regina Kat P 172W79 St # 8A Karpwe st 2 gmail.

Weborah November 200 W 79 # St 9F 1 Rs. anyc. or com

Lockwood 172 W. 79 10 Ckwood on line 2 gmail. com

Lockwood 172 W. 79 10 10 Ckwood on line 2 gmail. com

Luren Khayman 202 West 8/5T St. # 4B 1 Khyman & gmail. com

Derick Upcharch 171 W 79th St 173 derick upcharch & gmail. com

Sari upcharch 171 W, 79th St 173 derick upcharch & gmail. com

Nary ng Chien 162 W80th st. # F narying chien & gmail. com

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#### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK



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THEODORE ROOSEVEIT PARK
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Name	Address/Zip Code	Email (Please Print)	l'Il Volunteer to help	Contact me for a donation
* KEN HOIL	253 W73 ST8D	KENHOHLGGMAK, ON.		
2 RICHARD FORRACI	135 W 79HST 9A/10A	richard. FERRARI @ EY.COM		
3 Meg Taylor	125 W 72	"kebeen ( hotpu).c.		
* Deducativant	470 West End	Ú-		
5 Ava Hsu	307 Prospect Pl. 11238	write 2 ava eyahoo. com-	- list	
" BEN SHUPP	307 PRUSPEUT PZ 11238	- list		
F Lee Mahony	145 W 79th St	ETMIZE/agnail. Was		
8 J. Jacobson		Cisur Caol, com		
9 Patricia Fox	69 W. 894 St. NYNY 1000	4 Foxfamily@nyc.rr.com	າ.	
"ELIZABETH PALKA	30 WEST 70H SIR #3C	elai kamile e gmail.	on	
17 Kamila Palka	30W 70th st.	Kama palka@gmail.com		
- YIRGINIA LIM	118 W. 79 Myc 10224			
5 Sinan Baskan	145 W. 67 th st.	bkismal eyahoo, wom		
"Melane Donerted		Mdon 1 @ aol. Com JPOCONN @ YA400. COM		
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#### PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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Dun can Phalps Can ada Duncan Philo Live.com

Rosa Rios

Byls 1912 Street Hollis NV 1173 Presarios 11270 giroxil.can

Elizabeth Kilaber 173 W TB 57 FE NR parulae MAR. Gam

CRAIC CASPER ZIOQ BROADWAT, 1577 CRAIC CASPEREMAC.COM

ML HORVATH 118 W 74 57 NVC mlhorvath 118 @ g. mail X

BEVERLY DOLINSKY 40 W 117 St 17 VC beverly dolinsky phro.com

Tanice LATHEN 10 Box 30013, Nyc 10033

Chris Hunt 236 Edge moor Rd Bpt., Ct.

Gibbs Avan 140 KNICKELROCKEL RD. ENGLANOOD RON. Clash CERRENAL

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Stephane fotorcaxt 460048 Are Apter woodside W 1837 Upitsdsygew. Om

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#### ETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

### I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

Address/Zip Code Email (Please Print) Name I'll Volunteer Contact me for a donation \* Alexandra Laguardia 100 Washburn Rd, 10510 alexandralage icioud.com = EUZDem Rodmen 137 W82St 10024 e, rodman@ Venzamines = JANGS HAD 145 V 79 ST 10024 jh 2762@ymil.com + Jehn Lawrence 102W 85 m St #82 10024 Jeverny lawronce Jeychow. On 5 LINDALAKE 317W 87 th 1/2ke4@nyc.rv.com 6 Tedory Dubro 41 W 83 M ST THE TO TENDER TENDER TO TENDER TO TENDER TENDER TENDER TO TENDER T \* Emma Weinert 75 central Park West emmy n@quail.com 8 BRENT PHILL, AS 105 W 75 NY NY 10023 9 FRANK M95/1044 105 10 75 NY NX 10023 Le Deborah Halturewicz 17 Ideal Ct. Northey, NJ Bash987@ad.com " HELEN TAYNION 140 W. 7925 stayntones all not Berbara Healy break 2150 grand, com

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Michelly I. I. 124 W 72 10023

Roger Puckett 172 W 79th 190 10024 rogerh puckett Game; 1.com

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THOMPE ROSSPHI PARK
Name

Address/Zip Code

Email (Please Print)

Paul Hyman

Bill STANKORT

120 Southern Dr. Ottana, On

Rachel Smolen (550 Westendame NT Rachelsmolen ID to gmail.com

Candacu Gray 309 W 86 NY gcandy freud O gMgil.com

Angela Eckard 70 West 83 Rd NY msAE 301. com

Theray Varais 140 W. 1046 SJ in 10825 Theec34@aol. com.

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Address/Zip Code

Email (Please Print)

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2 Amy Guersol 25 CPW

Ron Hit 4892 nd Ave # & no email.

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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

# I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

THEODOR ROSSING PARK
Name

Address/Zip Code

Email (Please Print)

Pil Volunteer to help for a donation

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Pro Australam 10023 SHONTANGE GMAIL. CAM

ROSA LASAOSIA

140 Ruberside Blvd. 1512 Tosa Wlasaosa Coome as Nut

Elena Rogers

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# Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park

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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

# I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!



### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

Name	Address/Zip Code	Email (Please Print)	l'Il Volunteer to help	Contact me for a donation
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### ETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

#### I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

Address/Zip Code

Email (Please Print)

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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

## I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

Address/Zip Code

Email (Please Print)

Pil Volunteer Confact me for a donation

CHIAD MORAN.

699 CHURCH ST 13212 CHADMORAL EYAHLOO CCM

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Christophia College St 10024 SPISKE QUMCH! CCM

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Max Kowalsky 78 St Manys Ave snishadowaya hoo com

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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

### I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

Address/Zip Code

Email (Please Print)

Pill Volunteer to help

Paul Hyman

Bill STANDER 1205, flow Dr. Offana, ON

Rachel Smolen 650 Westendame MY Rachel Smolen ID & gmail.com

Candacu Gray 30 9 W 86 N Y gcandy freud De Maglicom

Angela Eckard 70 West 83 Rel Ny msAE acid.com

Therey Vargas 140 W. 10446 57 Ley 10825 Theec34@ acid.com

Chester Save 230 central Park West, 14 I chestert evis pagnail.com

Mark Deballe 101 W=5+ Ath St 10024 indimand of the Directory

Katrine Ames 215 W. 75t St. 1003 Care.aurs@grand.com

Live Fill Grand 44 Maningside Dr

De the the Cit. 2601 WEA # 1118 10024 DEBBEH 601 @AOL. Com



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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

## I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

Name

Address/Zip Code

Email (Please Print)

Pil Volunteer to help

for a donation

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Bill Gilby 36 W 88th 5t 10027 bgilby amail

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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

# I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK Name	Address/Zip Code	Email (Please Print)	I'll Volunteer to help	Contact me for a donation
* TIM MATUSZEWAK	305 W. 715T	212-787-3450		
* Elica Crange	11 West 81 Street	(646) 884 - 0432	1	
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Azeb Sesta	147 W85 st	adesta en nycirric	om	
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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

THEODORE KOOSEVELT PARK Name	Address/Zip Code	Email (Please Print)	l'il Volunteer Contact me to help for a donation
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= LEYA OLINARA	205 N. 83 RD ST NY. NY	Der 18 ya agitimes @ gini	wn
Amy GILLENSON	25 CPW	augillarson @ gmail. co	
JAMES FORNAR	25 CPW		
Ron Hirt	489 2nd Ave # 6	no email.	
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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

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## PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

# I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

THEODORE KOOSEVET PARK Name	Action Dode	Email (Please Print)	l'II Volunteer to help	Contact me for a donation
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## PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

#### I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

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Name

Address/Zip Code

Email (Please Print)

Pil Volunteer to help for a donation

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## PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

# I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

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### PETITION TO PROTECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK

# I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARD GILDER CENTER IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK!

Name	Address/Zip Code	Email (Please Print)	l'Il Volunteer Contact me to help for a donation
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Owen Wells Director of Environmental Review New York City Department of Parks and Recreation The Arsenal, Central Park 830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401 New York, New York 10065

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Form Letter 1

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

[Sign First & Last Name Here] [Address]

Byann Slone

A STO (OIUM BUS AVE #5A

Now York, NY

10024

# Opposition of the expansion of AMNH into Theodore Roosevelt Park

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:03 AM

Subject	Opposition of the expansion of AMNH into Theodore Roosevelt Park
From	Amanda Gewirtz
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 20, 2017 5:55 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to oppose the expansion of the AMNH into Theodore Roosevelt Park. In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18<sup>th</sup>, we now know the answers to the following questions:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs, industrial solvents, and arsenic were found in both soil and water samples.

Not only is this project a threat to the environment, it's a threat to the community. As someone who lives less than half a block away from the proposed construction site, I'm concerned about the negative effects on my neighborhood being turned into a construction zone, including noise level and air pollution. Additionally, this project would eliminate the weekly farmer's market on Columbus Ave that is a staple for so many families, including my own, to have access to fresh and organic food right in our neighborhood.

The AMNH is stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health, safety, and community of this neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Amanda Gewirtz

102 W. 79th Street, Apt 2a New York, NY 10024

Akahl <andreekahl@gmail.com> Wednesday, May 24, 2017 3:58 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

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I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Andree Kahlmorgan 412 W. 110 St New York, NY

Akahl <andreekahl@gmail.com> Thursday, May 25, 2017 8:52 AM

To: Subject:

Wells, Owen (Parks) Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

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Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Andree Kahlmorgan

Andrew Newlin <adnewlin@gmail.com> Saturday, May 20, 2017 11:04 AM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks) Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Andrew Newlin

Sent from my iPhone

ann grandt <anngrandt@yahoo.com> Monday, May 29, 2017 3:19 PM

To: Subject:

Wells, Owen (Parks) Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells, I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center. In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment." Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know: "Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples. Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities. Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood. I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment. Sincerely,

Ann Russell

From:

Barbra Music <barbramusic@icloud.com>

Sent:

Saturday, May 20, 2017 1:23 PM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks) Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely, Barbra Music

dale.brown@earthlink.net Sunday, May 21, 2017 7:34 AM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks) Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment and may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment.

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Dale M. Brown 146 West 79 Street Apt. 1B New York, NY 10024

Ed Herson <eherson@Halstead.com> Sunday, May 21, 2017 10:56 AM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks) Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Ed Herson

This e mail is for the named addressees only and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please inform me and delete it from your files. If you do not wish to receive commercial emails from me in the future and like to "Opt-Out" please forward this email to optout@halstead.com with subject "remove me from your list." All information is from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, change of price, prior sale or withdrawal without notice. No representation is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate and all information should be confirmed by customer. All rights to content, photographs and graphics reserved to Broker. Broker is not authorized to bind parties. Real estate contracts are only established by duly executed agreement between the parties.

From:

Jey Purushotham <jey.puru@gmail.com>

Sent: To: Sunday, May 21, 2017 3:07 PM

Subject:

Wells, Owen (Parks) Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

J. Purushotham

From:

Larry Slaughter < larryslaughter 01@gmail.com>

Sent: To: Saturday, May 20, 2017 4:53 PM

Subject:

Wells, Owen (Parks) Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

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Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Slaughter Resident of 145 Central Park West NY NY 10023

Linda Faulhaber <br/>
<br/>
boisher@icloud.com>

To:

Saturday, May 20, 2017 12:06 PM Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

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Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Linda Faulhaber

From:

Linda <lselman@nyc.rr.com> Sunday, May 21, 2017 4:21 AM

Sent: To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

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Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

[Sign your name here]

Linda Selman Sent from Linda's Iphone From:

Marion Shulevitz <rabmrs@shulevitz.com>

Sent:

Monday, May 22, 2017 11:14 PM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks) Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

[Sign your name here]

Mary Brey <mbrey38@gmail.com> Monday, May 22, 2017 12:04 AM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks) Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

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Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Mary Brey 131 West 85 NY, NY 10024

Sent from my iPad

From:

Michael Rosenberg <mrdds@mindspring.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, May 24, 2017 6:58 PM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks) Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely, Michael Rosenberg,DDS 32 W 83rd St NY<NY 10024

Peg O'Brien <pgobr@aol.com> Saturday, May 20, 2017 11:18 AM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks) Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

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Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely, Peg O'Brien From:

Shoshana <shoshana.vasheetz@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, May 21, 2017 8:25 AM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks) Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Shoshana Vasheetz

Toni Siegel <tsiegel1@gmail.com> Sunday, May 21, 2017 8:13 AM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks) Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Toni Siegel

## **AMNH Gilder Center Comment**

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:03 AM

Subject	<b>AMNH Gilder Center Comment</b>
From	Alan Lubell
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 20, 2017 9:54 AM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

[Alan Lubell] [15 West 81st Street NY NY 10024]

#### **AMNH Gilder Center**

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:03 AM

Subject	<b>AMNH Gilder Center</b>
From	Stephen Carr
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 20, 2017 7:36 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.
In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed AMNH project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely, James Stephen Carr 118 West 79th St, 2B

#### **AMNH Public Comment**

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	<b>AMNH Public Comment</b>
From	Amy Harlib
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Sunday, June 11, 2017 5:47 AM

#### amyharlib@gmail.com

Mr. Owen Wells

Director of Environmental Review

New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

The Arsenal, Central Park

830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401

New York, NY 10065

Dear Mr. Wells,

#### STOP THE GILDER CENTER BOONDOGGLE!

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we now know the answers to the following questions:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along withPAHs, industrial solvents, and arsenic WERE found in both soil and water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality ARE present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Amy Harlib 212 West 22nd St. #2N N.Y., NY 10011

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Anafreiberg
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Monday, June 12, 2017 5:22 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely, Ana Freiberg [Signa your name here]

Sent from my iPhone

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AN

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Margareta Becker
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Monday, June 12, 2017 5:33 PM

Dear Mr. Wells, I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center. In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment." Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know: "Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples. Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities. Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood. I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment. Sincerely, [Sign your name here]

Margareta margaretabecker@yahoo.com

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Susan Beth Schneider
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Monday, June 12, 2017 5:43 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

[Susan Schneider 151 West 80 Street NY NY 10024]

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Richard Grausman
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Cc	Tim Zagat; Tim Zagat
Sent	Monday, June 12, 2017 6:36 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my deep concern and great opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment. This does not take into consideration what additional damage will be done to the neighborhood if the project is completed.

A number of years ago, when the last expansion was done, the museum promised to find a solution to traffic problems caused by school busses. A solution was never found and with the new expansion, increased congestion, pollution and traffic will make the neighborhood impossible to navigate. It should be proven that the present traffic problems can be solved before allowing the project to go any further.

Sincerely, Susan & Richard Grausman

27 Years of Transforming Lives Through Culinary Arts
Richard Grausman
Founder & Chairman Emeritus
C-CAP
Home: 15 West 81st. Street, NYC, 10024
http://www.ccapinc.org/

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	sashaschulman@gmail.com
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Monday, June 12, 2017 9:45 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

My family and I live in the neighborhood and that space is part of our Sunday ritual. We bring breakfast to eat in the park, and then shop at the farmers market. That space is so important to many people in the community, and I've had numerous interactions with tourists Who love it as well. Please do not take away green space from our city. Please keep the park as it is.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Sasha Elias 323 west 76th st.

Sent from my iPhone

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:08 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Anne McFrederick
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Monday, June 12, 2017 10:48 PM

Dear Mr. Wells, I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation <sup>3</sup>has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment<sup>2</sup> and <sup>3</sup>may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment.2

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

<sup>3</sup>Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin<sup>2</sup> consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

#### Not only is the AMNH

endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

[Sign your name here]

Anne and Michael McFrederick 111 W. 82nd Street Apt. 5B New York, NY 10024

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Deborah S. Bernstein
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 13, 2017 6:06 AM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center. The park cannot bear an expansion of the museum and the people who live here will suffer from the inhaled environmental poisons released into the air.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Deborah S. Bernstein 7 W 81 ST 15B New York, NY 10024

Regards, Deborah

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Flora McKay
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 13, 2017 10:42 AM

#### Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center. In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment." Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know: "Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples. Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities. Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood. I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely, Flora McKay

#### **AMNH Gilder Center Comment**

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:03 AM

Subject	AMNH Gilder Center Comment
From	DS Bernstein
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 20, 2017 4:00 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

As a resident of West 81st Street, I have experienced the continuous erosion of peace and well-being that I once enjoyed in my life here. The buses, both MTA and school buses, are both a noise and environmental nuisance from their idling engines. There's far too much vehicular and human traffic, and Teddy Roosevelt Park, which I use every day, is barely kept up at all.

Mature trees are not cared for, and newly planted trees are simply mulched and left unsupervised, which usually means death. In Spring and Fall, school groups fill the park and eat lunch, filling garbage cans to overflow, which draws rats. The garbage is usually not emptied until late evening or the next day.

I am also concerned about the health risks and oppose the AMNH's Gilder Center in its present form. Even your own agency has stated the potential health impact:

[The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation] "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

I am grateful for the hard work that the coalition opposing the Gilder Science Center plan in its present form has carried out in making the public aware of the devastation that the project will present to the neighborhood; especially, for those of us who live around the museum. School groups will increase and continue to use TR Park for lunches, which further stresses the limits of this already poorly cared for, but much loved, park.

As a private institution, AMNH will take \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and has shown little concern for the outcry from the neighborhood's residents. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement of May 18, 2017 states that:

"Hazardous materials, contaminants and fill of unknown origin consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples."

These hazardous materials are from previous generations, but they can still cause illness and death to this generation. Not only is the AMNH creating a health risk for the community with this project, they are also removing a precious, well-used public parkland, which is unlike Central Park in its more intimate nature.

The Museum's footprint is already large--encompassing four street blocks and two avenues--ample space to expand their educational outreach within that footprint; especially, the unused space available in the 77th Street side of the museum.

Just because this land can be seized, does not mean that you should do so. Central Park West and 81st Street has already become a traffic mess with an SBS bus lane, Way Finder maps and SBS machines for the buses and tourists on both sides of the street. Moreover, the installation of these items has resulted in poorly patched and uneven cobblestones, which is both an eyesore and dangerous, especially to Senior Citizens.

Teddy Roosevelt Park's name was intended to honor an early environmental supporter. Surely, you can do better than what is now planned. Please do not permit the loss of this precious open space. The project has not yet begun, but where does institutional power end?

Sincerely,

Deborah Smith Bernstein 7 W 81 Street, 15B New York, NT 10024

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	DeAnna D. Rieber
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 13, 2017 10:45 AM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely, Dee Rieber 646-327-1572

This e mail is for the named addressees only and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please inform me and delete it from your files. If you do not wish to receive commercial emails from me in the future and like to "Opt-Out" please forward this email to optout@halstead.com with subject "remove me from your list." All information is from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, change of price, prior sale or withdrawal without notice. No representation is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate and all information should be confirmed by customer. All rights to content, photographs and graphics reserved to Broker. Broker is not authorized to bind parties. Real estate contracts are only established by duly executed agreement between the parties.

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	David Miller
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 13, 2017 1:54 PM

#### Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

David Miller

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	<b>AMNH Gilder Center Comment</b>
From	Caroline Favre-Gilly Law
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 16, 2017 2:08 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

We are writing to express our concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

We are firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Caroline Favre-Gilly Law and Tom Law 202 West 78th Street Apt 5W New York, New York 10024

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	<b>AMNH Gilder Center Comment</b>
From	Jamie Berg
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 16, 2017 2:08 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

[Sign First & Last Name Here] [Address]

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	<b>AMNH Gilder Center Comment</b>
From	Ginger Brennan
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 16, 2017 2:13 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Ginger R Brennan 139 W 80th St #4B NY 10024

Sent from my iPhone

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	<b>AMNH Gilder Center Comment</b>
From	Frances Apgar
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 16, 2017 2:15 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our **public parkland**, as a private institution they have **taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern** for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Frances Apgar 32 West 73rd Street NY, NY 10023

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	<b>AMNH Gilder Center Comment</b>
From	Chris G Murray
То	Wells, Owen (Parks); Helen@HelenRosenthal.com
Sent	Friday, June 16, 2017 2:34 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely, Chris G Murray Hargrave House 111 West 71 St, 5C New York, N.Y. 10023

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	<b>AMNH Gilder Center Comment</b>
From	Susan Beth Schneider
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 16, 2017 3:03 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Susan Schneider 151 W. 80 Street, 5F NY NY 10024

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	<b>AMNH Gilder Center Comment</b>
From	<u>Diana Bloom</u>
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 16, 2017 3:23 PM

Dear Mr. Wells, I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center. In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment." Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know: "Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples. Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities. Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood. I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely, Diana Bloom 166 West 76 Street New York, NY 10023

Diana Bloom, Ph.D.
English/ESL Tutor: Speaking and Writing
Editor of Fiction and Nonfiction Texts in English
Translator of Texts from French to English

212 799-0720 and 646 269-6586

https://web.archive.org/web/20140911082456/http://mysite.verizon.net/dianabloom/

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	<b>AMNH Gilder Center Comment</b>
From	Toni Siegel
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 16, 2017 3:58 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Toni Siegel 90 Riverside Drive NY 10024

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	<b>AMNH Gilder Center Comment</b>
From	jvann
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Saturday, June 17, 2017 2:11 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Judy Vann 137 W 80th st

[Sign First & Last Name Here] [Address]

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	<b>AMNH Gilder Center Comment</b>
From	Carl Sherman
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Saturday, June 17, 2017 7:20 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express and explain my opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now, after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

The project, as currently proposed, will involve the destruction of the loveliest area of an important neighborhood park—a desperately needed oasis of peace and restoration in perhaps the most densely populated parts of New York City. In addition, during the 3-5 years of construction, it will render much of the rest of the park unusuable.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment. At the very least, it involves wanton, unnecessary appropriation of precious public greenspace.

As a steward of our public parkland and a protector of your city's citizens, it is your duty to oppose this project.

Most sincerely, Carl Sherman 127 W. 79<sup>th</sup> St. #15J New York, NY 10024 Sent from <u>Mail</u> for Windows 10

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	<b>AMNH Gilder Center Comment</b>
From	Anafreiberg
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Saturday, June 17, 2017 10:56 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely, Ana Freiberg 25 West 81st Street

Sent from my iPad

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Peter S. Borock
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 01, 2017 11:36 AM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Peter

Peter S. Borock (917) 648-0289

# Lou Gehrig's disease and toxins

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Lou Gehrig's disease and toxins
From	Paige Cameron
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 01, 2017 11:57 AM

#### Dear Mr. Wells,

I say NO to AMNH's Gilder Center. As a recent purchaser of real estate on 77th street, I am horrified at the prospect of this expansion and outraged that it was not disclosed to me prior to purchasing my property. Had I known I would not have bought in this neighborhood.

The recent confirmation of deadly the toxins and hazards to which we will be exposed are of great concern to me since my father died of ALS and recent studies link genetic proclivity coupled with exposure to chemical toxins as a major risk factor to developing LOU GEHRIG's disease. The appropriation of public park land and the exposure of toxic chemicals and pollution to the neighborhood is a risk too dear for no benefit for the people that live here.

Furthermore, this is UNNECESSARY! There is no compelling need for this expansion and is an over reach of power by those who are working behind the scenes to approve this despite the opposition of the taxpayers of this community. It is a decision that seems in keeping with the current political climate of promoting self interest and greed over a democratic process. It clearly ignores the overwhelming opposition to this project by those who it will affect. YOU ARE ASKING US TO PAY WITH OUR PEACE AND HEALTH FOR THE BENEFIT OF DEVELOPERS AND POLITICIANS WHO WANT THIS TO GAIN PROFIT AND POWER. This is an unfair distribution of wealth and cost that is unconscionable.

There is no reason that the monies allocated to this project could not be used to house the glider center in another already existing historic building. The only reason to pursue this appropriation is to line the pockets and enhance the power of those that will gain from such construction and destruction.

The Natural History Museum was one of the main reasons I bought in this neighborhood, now I can't even look at the building without being disgusted at the warped ambitions of the current stewards and how those ambitions go against the very heart of the mission of what the Museum has stood for since its inception.

You MUST listen to the people who live here. WE DON"T NEED THIS OR WANT THIS. In my view, it is criminal to appropriate park land for the use of a private endeavor no matter what educational label you place on it to justify or cover the greedy motivation behind such an unnecessary waste of resources.

Pleading for you to do the right thing. STOP THIS.

Paige Cameron

# AMNH expansion

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	AMNH expansion
From	<u>Diana Bloom</u>
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 01, 2017 12:19 PM

The AMNH released its <u>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</u> Thursday, May 18th. This report confirmed our worst fears - hazardous materials ARE contaminating the building site. Elevated levels of Beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents ARE present in both soil and ground water samples. **These toxins are deadly, even in very small amounts!** 

This means that demolishing existing buildings and excavating soil to erect the Gilder Center will represent a real threat to the health, safety and quality of life of our community!

#### TIME IS SHORT

PLEASE say NO to this toxic project.

Diana Bloom, Ph.D.

212 799-0720 and 646 269-6586

https://web.archive.org/web/20140911082456/http://mysite.verizon.net/dianabloom/

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Tanya Barkas
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Cc	Barkas Tanya
Sent	Thursday, June 01, 2017 12:22 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

[Sign your name here]

Tatiana Barkas / C: 917-376-1459

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Regina Karp
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 01, 2017 12:33 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely, Regina Karp [Sign your name here]

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	<b>Stop AMNH Gilder Center</b>
From	Victoria Schwinning
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 01, 2017 12:41 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Victoria Schwinning Upper West Side Resident for over 30 years

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Francine Goldenhar
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 01, 2017 1:31 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed AMNH project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

As a neighbor of the museum, I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it will significantly endanger the health and safety of people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Francine Goldenhar

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Holland Taylor
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Thursday, June 01, 2017 2:54 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Not to mention the ruinous crowding brought to an area already choked with visitors to two major museums. Eight hundred thousand additional yearly arrivals during business hours to the Columbus Entrance is about two hundred and seventy people arriving by foot or cab every HOUR. Eleven a MINUTE. And obviously that is not spread out during the whole day, but much more intensely in the morning and late afternoon hours. This is a night mare to contemplate, and it is impossible to imagine what the blasting and construction period (three-four years?) will be like on this already congested area.

There are neighborhoods all over New York which would benefit immeasurably by having a museum destination. It would have infinite benefit to place this new science museum in a neighborhood it would only improve. But there is NO excuse to destroy this Natural History Museum and Historical Society area altogether.

Were this proposal made for the totally vacant vast south lawn which goes from Columbus Ave. to Central Park West along 77th St, it would have been stopped instantly by the extraordinarily wealthy apartment dwellers on that protected and quiet street. Never mind that one of the museum's original entrances is there. Really, on the face of it, this current plan for the Gilder Center creates a subtraction of park and dog walk areas, removal of trees, and permanent mess for everyone *but* the 77th St. denizens.

Sincerely,

Holland Taylor 145 West 79th St.

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Mary Brey
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 02, 2017 12:10 AM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Mary Brey 131 West 85 NY, NY 10024

Sent from my iPad

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	susangill@earthlink.net
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 06, 2017 1:57 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Susan Gill

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Mary King
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 06, 2017 3:50 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Mary King

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Bonnie Chapman
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 06, 2017 4:02 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

**Bonnie Chapman** 114 West 86th St. Apt. 11B NY, NY 10024

Sent from my iPhone

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	George Work
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 06, 2017 4:07 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Additionally, WE RESENT THE CONSTANT ATTEMPTS TO ALTER OUR HISTORIC NEW YORK PROPERTIES FOR DUBIOUS REASONS. LEAVE OUR IRREPLACEABLE HISTORY ALONE FOR COMING GENERATIONS TO APPRECIATE AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE BY ITS DESIGNERS.

Sincerely,

Michael Scott Cutler

Sent from Outlook

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Judith Choate
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Tuesday, June 06, 2017 7:51 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Judith Choate, a long time Upper West Side resident

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Nikolina Icitovic
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 09, 2017 9:41 AM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Nikolina

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Peter S. Borock
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 09, 2017 9:43 AM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Peter

Peter S. Borock (917) 648-0289

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Elana Borock
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 09, 2017 10:06 AM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Elana Borock

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Tatiana Barkas
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 09, 2017 10:11 AM

#### Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Tatiana & James Barkas

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Jo Anne Staats
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 09, 2017 1:27 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Staaats/Richard Carlson

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Missi Email
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 09, 2017 2:11 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Melissa M Gibbs

Sent from my iPhone

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:12 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Naomi Rossabi
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 09, 2017 5:08 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

[Naomi Rossabi]

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:11 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	karen Robbins
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 09, 2017 6:55 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

]yours Truly,

Karen Robbins

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:11 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Dale Stern
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 09, 2017 9:28 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

As someone who lives just a block from the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), I want to express my opposition to its plans to build the Guilder Center. I don't understand why the City should give park land so that the Museum can expand its footprint at the expense of the safety of the neighborhood.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment." Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know: "Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland and planning to cut down old growth trees. The museum has shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Dale Stern

# Stop AMNH Gilder Center

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:11 AM

Subject	Stop AMNH Gilder Center
From	Brooke, Rebecca
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Saturday, June 10, 2017 9:23 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Brooke

UWS resident since 2000

?

The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you received this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from any computer.

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

June 23, 2017

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Thank you. Sincerely,

The world is already close to its final days as
The world is already close to its final days as
to human activities contribution to
global warning, will this buildings
regative effect on our oftene receily be worth

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719 W 180th Street Apt. 2 New York, Ny 10033

June 23, 2017

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Owen Wells
Director of Environmental Review
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401
New York, New York 10065

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Thank you. Sincerely,

Kidest Fikremariam

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

June 23, 2017

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

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Non Shun Non Shun 265 W 81st st.

271 W 70 TST APT. G.W Nyc, Ny 10023

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you.

Sincerely, SUE GILLIS / In Jules

> Will you provide an alternate dog run while there is construction and or provide and the sermanant one should the present one be denotished ???

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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forg Fulow (SCO)
st & Last Name Here]
161 West 75 Th St

NYNY10023

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Sincerely,

MONA VILLICANA [Sign First & Last Name Here]

[Address]

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Sincerely,

[Sign First & Last Name Here]

[Address]

Hannah Shotet 101 W 79th NY NY 18024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492 Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Sincerely,

[Sign First & Last Name Here] [Address]

Del 370 Courses AVE APT-35 NY NY 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Sincerely,

[Sign First & Last Name Here] anastasiia Iuritskajia [Address]

370 Cohumbus Ave apt. 2H

New York, New York 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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5 columba

Sincerely,

[Sign First & Last Name Here]

[Address]

166

please oppose.

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Sincerely,

[Sign First & Last Name Here]
[Address] 376 Columbu AVE 1-B

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Sincerely,

[Sign First & Last Name Here] Craig Strages
[Address] 370 Columbus ave #1-B
NY NY 10024

From:

Camilla Calamandrei <camillacala@gmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 12:29 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

Please reject the AMNH Gilder Center as proposed, and save our park

Dear Mr. Wells,

I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal to build the Gilder Center as currently proposed, and:

- protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands
- protect us (and our health) from known toxins
- protect future generations from climate change disaster by demanding energy efficient and carbon responsible development

I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum but if 11,600 square feet of Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed for the proposed Gilder Center we will lose a valuable ecosystem supports wildlife and our own well-being. Each year our park provides support to thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community.

The purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees.

I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals. In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I am also deeply concerned about the finding in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement of May 18th: "Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

And the fact that the museums plan for this structure does not propose using any sustainable source of energy—it will be run entirely on antiquated fossil fuel systems further contributing to air pollution. According to the draft environmental impact statement: "the proposed project is expected to use the museum's existing ConEdison steam service connection for the project's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) needs." In addition, the construction itself will be wildly carbon intensive with "Greenhouse Gas Emissions estimated at 2,055 metric tons CO2e per year, with roughly 40 percent of that amount from on-road sources, and 60 percent from building energy. ... construction emissions were not modeled explicitly, but are estimated to be equivalent to approximately 5 to 10 years of operational emissions."

Please, be the leader of PARKS and reject the AMNH's proposal to build the Gilder Center as currently proposed.

Thank you for your consideration and the work you do on behalf of all of us.

Camilla Calamandrei

Camilla Calamandrei 917-327-9579 CamillaCala@gmail.com

Website: <a href="https://camillacalamandrei.com/">https://camillacalamandrei.com/</a>

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/calamandrei

From: Sent: To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

No Toxic AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

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"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

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I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

[Sign First & Last Name Here] [Address]

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Inez Diaz <inez@marisolfineart.com>

Sent: To: Monday, June 26, 2017 9:04 AM Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

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Sincerely,

Inez Diaz 127 West 79th Street New York, NY. 10021

June 11, 2017

Mr. Owen Wells
Director of Environmental Review
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401
New York, NY 10065

Dear Mr. Wells,

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Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we now know the answers to the following questions:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs, industrial solvents, and arsenic WERE found in both soil and water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality ARE present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

We are particularly concerned that only fossil fuels will be used for heating and air conditioning. No alternative energy sources are currently part of the plan. How ironic this is in the creation of a building purported to be dedicated to the study of scientific well beng.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community, they are also taking our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

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Sincerely, Sklen Freiders

Helen Freidus

15 West 81 Street

New York, NY 10024

From:

Nora Gaines <ngaines@bankstreet.edu>

Sent:

Friday, June 23, 2017 2:49 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

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Sincerely, Nora Gaines 146 W. 80th St. New York, NY 10024

From: Sent: Giancarlo <gian2thecarlo@yahoo.com>

To:

Thursday, June 22, 2017 5:49 PM

Subject:

Wells, Owen (Parks) AMNH Gilder Center

Owen Wells

Director of Environmental Review
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401
New York, New York 10065

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: <u>owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov</u>

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Sincerely,

Giancarlo Ghedini

From: Sent: Sue Gillis <suegi@earthlink.net> Thursday, June 22, 2017 9:20 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

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Sincerely,

Sue Gillis 271 W 70th St NYC, NY 10023

Sent from my iPad

From:

Edward Greene <edward.greene@gmail.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 22, 2017 4:47 PM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks)
No Toxic AMNH Gilder Center

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In addition they will promised some thing and not keep it such as the garage project

A former member of the city commission when the planetarium was built

Sincerely, Edward greene 124 w 79th st Nyc ny 10024

[Sign First & Last Name Here] [Address]

Sent from my iPod Emgreene@yahoo.com Edward.greene@gmail.com

Sent from my iPod Emgreene@yahoo.com Edward.greene@gmail.com

From:

Ellison Goldberg <ellie@ekgtalentgroup.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 22, 2017 4:37 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

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Sincerely,

Ellison Hennessy 200 west 79th street Ny, ny 10024

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy Tab®4

From:

carol joseph <carolina1913@verizon.net>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 3:01 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

No Toxic AMNH Gilder Center

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Sincerely,

Carol A. Joseph 11 1/2 W. 84th Street, 5A New York, NY, 10024

From:

Mary Kim <greenvase215@gmail.com>

Sent: To: Sunday, June 25, 2017 4:26 PM Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

No Toxic AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

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Sincerely, Mary Kim 150 West 79th Street New York, NY 10924

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Cornelia Ravenal <ravencjr@hotmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 3:33 PM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks)

10.00

Please stop the Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells -

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

My husband and I, having lived a block from the Museum for decades, have three areas of concern:

1. First, the museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

In addition -

The whole Upper West Side—the most densely populated part of Manhattan—will be affected by vastly increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic if the Gilder Center goes forward. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement acknowledges that, "Because existing traffic and pedestrian conditions are already congested at times and susceptible to worsening in service levels, even small increases in traffic and pedestrian levels could result in significant adverse impacts."

This statement is so explosive that you'd think it alone could bring this ill-advised project to a halt.

Thanks to bike lanes, existing parking spots, and double-parked trucks unloading, the two major Upper West Side arteries, Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues, have been reduced to mostly two lane streets. These arteries are so badly clogged that too often even emergency vehicles find themselves at a standstill. I regularly observe fire engines and ambulances stuck in traffic, blaring away for several minutes, unable to move an inch.

On any given school day right now, as many as 100 school buses line the streets of this neighborhood, many of them with idling engines keeping waiting drivers warm in the cold months and cool in the hot months, their exhaust fumes poisoning the air.

This is an ultra serious issue. But the Museum would like us to believe the problem can be easily mitigated by the simple, inexpensive and expedient signal changes and a widened crosswalk.

If this were true, why hasn't the MTA done these things already? Wider crosswalks and retimed signals can't deal with the traffic we already have, let alone congestion problems during the years of construction and afterward. Are we just supposed to accept lifethreatening delays as a normal part of life?

In addition -

3. Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer

dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

In sum, I implore you to reject the application for this ill-conceived project, which expects the UWS community to sacrifice its health and general well-being in exchange for little more than an expanded entrance hall. That would be a shabby deal for the neighborhood and the Upper West Side in general. It would be unworthy of the Museum.

Thank you. Cornelia Ravenal

Cornelia Ravenal 127 W 79th St #16a New York NY 10024

From:

Victoria Schwinning <victoria.schwinning@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 4:10 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

No Toxic AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Victoria Schwinning 265 Riverside Dr. #6g New York, NY 10025 June 19, 2017

Mr. Owen Wells
Director of Environmental Review
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401
New York, NY 10065

Re: AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells:

The proposed AMNH Gilder Center should not be approved because there are significant public health and safety issues associated with this project. An **independent** environmental impact assessment would even more clearly document this fact. Please note the draft EIS was conducted by consultants selected by and paid for by AMNH. It is not an independent, credible study.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know the answers to the following questions:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs, industrial solvents, and arsenic WERE found in both soil and water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality ARE present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community, the project permanently eliminates precious public parkland. It is also using \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars for the benefit of a private institution, the AMNH.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety of the people and the environment, public parkland should not be eliminated and tax dollars should not be used for the benefit of a private institution.

Sincerely,

150 W 79th St, Apt 7A

New York, NY 10024

From:

Shoshana <shoshana.vasheetz@gmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 7:13 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

No Toxic AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety of the people and the environment. Also, I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands. In addition, the UWS community should not be expected to sacrifice its health and general well-being in exchange for little more than an expanded entrance hall. That would be a shabby deal for the neighborhood and the Upper West Side in general. It would be unworthy of the Museum.

Sincerely, Shoshana Vasheetz 219 West 78 Street, 1F New York, NY 10024 June 16, 2017

Mr. Owen Wells Director of Environmental Review New York City Department of Parks and Recreation The Arsenal, Central Park 830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401 New York, NY 10065

Dear Mr. Wells,

I live just blocks for Theodore Roosevelt Park, and I hope to see it saved for the many ways it contributes to the mental health of human and canine New Yorkers and the actual lives of birds and other wildlife.

Moreover I am very concerned about what the Draft Environmental Impact Statement of May 18th has revealed:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs, industrial solvents, and arsenic were found in both soil and water samples.

There are serious threats to our air, soil, and water quality in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

These findings add a chilling specificity to the original findings of the The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, that "the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it will significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Whitlock

49 W. 84mst., Apt. 1

Sugar B. Whitlack

New York, NY 10024

From: Sent: Carol Lipis <carol.lipis@gmail.com> Thursday, June 22, 2017 4:35 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

No Toxic AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Carol Lipis [Sign First & Last Name Here] [Address] 172 W. 79th St., Apt. 9A New York, NY 10024

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Brent Oppenheimer <b@brentoppenheimer.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 11:20 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

No Toxic AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Brent Oppenheimer 101 West 81st Street New York, NY 10024

From: Sent:

eileen robbins <robbins.eileen@gmail.com>

Sunday, June 25, 2017 6:50 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

Say No to the Toxic AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Eileen D. Robbins 127 West 79th St., Apt. 8-C New York, NY 10024

From:

Glynn Rudich <glynn.rudich@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 12:11 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

No Toxic AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Glynn Rudich] 173 West 78th Street NYC 10024

From:

Jane Scovell <vocsjane@gmail.com>

Sent:

Friday, June 23, 2017 1:45 PM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks)
No Toxic AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely, Jane Scovell 15 West 81st Street New York, NY 10024

From: Sent: Linda <lselman@nyc.rr.com> Friday, June 23, 2017 4:03 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

No Toxic AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Linda Selman [Sign First & Last Name Here] [Address] 157 West 79 Street New York, NY 10024

Sent from Linda's Iphone

From:

Betsy Silverman <betsywastaken@hotmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 4:41 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

No Toxic AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Betsy Silverman 155 West 95th street NY, NY 10025

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Marilee <marileewyman@aol.com> Thursday, June 22, 2017 4:50 PM

Sent: To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

No Toxic AMNH Gilder Center

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center. In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment." Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know: "Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples. Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood. I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Marilee Wyman 141 West 80 Street, 1R New York, NY 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells.

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sign First & Last Name Here]

[Address]

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Singerely,

[Sign First & Last Name Here]

[Address]

370 Wilmons Mount

N.4 3 N.4. 10024

Unknownd

Telephone: (212) 360-3492 Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center.

In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment."

Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

Sincerely,

[Sign First & Last Name Here]

[Address]

370 COLUMBUS AVE SL NEW YORK, NX 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492 Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways - quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

Ryann Sione / 370 Columbrus Ave #5A New York, NY 10024

Form Letter 2

From:

Joy Zigo <joyznyc@gmail.com> Friday, June 23, 2017 12:00 PM

Sent: To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

Joy Zigo 2533 37th Street Astoria, NY 11103

From:

Van Dorn, Walter < wvandorn@bakerlaw.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, June 28, 2017 1:39 PM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks)
We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

Many thanks, Walter Van Dorn

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Any tax advice in this email is for information purposes only. The content of this email is limited to the matters specifically addressed herein and may not contain a full description of all relevant facts or a complete analysis of all relevant issues or authorities.

Internet communications are not assured to be secure or clear of inaccuracies as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete, or contain viruses. Therefore, we do not accept responsibility for any errors or omissions that are present in this email, or any attachment, that have arisen as a result of e-mail transmission.

From:

Lee Clauss < lee.clauss@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 8:39 PM

To: Cc: Wells, Owen (Parks) Claudia DiSalvo

Subject:

Public Comment AMNH

Owen Wells

Director of Environmental Review

New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

The Arsenal, Central Park

830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401

New York, New York 10065

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

Recently I taped and last night I watched a Channel 13 "Treasures of New York" program about the rails to trails movement. The protectors of our parklands spoke about the importance of creating green parks out of what had been sites of rubble, and about how this is being done all over New York State, to wondrous effect.

The horrifying plan of the American Museum of Natural History to cut down beautiful canopy trees, cannibalize part of Theodore Roosevelt Park—a true treasure of New York—and build there a huge, climate-unfriendly glass and concrete building, a building which is opposed by the entire community, a building that is essentially rubble, runs counter to all the ideals of the growing and vital ecological movement. Please do not let yourself be party to it.

If 11,600 square feet of Theodore Roosevelt Park are destroyed and cemented over to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we will lose a valuable ecosystem that helps promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Allowing our public assets and green spaces to be developed and built upon by private institutions is a trend that must be stopped. You are in a powerful position to stop it. Please do!

Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to a wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only way the Museum can fix those problems.

In fact, the architect for the Gilder Project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly [Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016] that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park.

There seems to be no constructive purpose for this building. The Gilder Center gives lip service to such noble things as science, education and innovation but its purpose seems more intended for flow improvement and private receptions.

Mr. Wells, these are hard times for Americans. Daily we the people watch in horror as a madman of a president tries to cut the country's throat and hack away at its vital organs, all for his own benefit and for the benefit of a few insatiably greedy individuals and corporations. He is being helped to do this by the majority of those who are responsible for checks and balances and should be reining him in, our Government officials. They are helping him because they are corrupt and cowardly, themselves in the pockets of those same individuals and organizations. and will be despised by history.

Do not be like them. This is your opportunity to show that you are neither corrupt nor cowardly, but a courageous public official. Please reject the current Gilder Center Plan.

William A. "Lee" Clauss, III

147 W. 79th Street, Apt. 10D

New York, NY 10024

From:

eclp78@gmail.com

Sent:

Thursday, June 22, 2017 3:53 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Diennet 15608 Riverside Drive West, 4H New York, NY 10032

Sent from my iPhone

From: Sent: J E <jrebrooklyn@gmail.com> Monday, June 26, 2017 1:18 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

Pro - Green spaced ---We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I sincerely believe what is written below. I am a native New Yorker from a long line of native New Yorkers, and I am keenly aware of the importance of every single green space we have.

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

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I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

J. Edelstein 185 Saint Marks Ave Brooklyn, New York

From: Rose Familant <rose\_familant@mac.com>

**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 9:45 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

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I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

Rose Familant 127 W. 79 NY NY 10024

From:

Linda Faulhaber <boisher@icloud.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 22, 2017 10:24 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

From:

Olive Freud <olivefreud305@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 7:36 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

Sent from my iPad

From:

Nora Gaines <ngaines@bankstreet.edu>

Sent:

Friday, June 23, 2017 2:49 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

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In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you, Nora Gaines 146 W. 80th St. New York, NY 10024

From: Sent: Sue Gillis <suegi@earthlink.net>
Thursday, June 22, 2017 9:17 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

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I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you in advance.

Sue Gillis 271 W 70th St NYC,NY 10023

Sent from my iPad

From:

Francine Goldenhar <francine.goldenhar@nyu.edu>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 2:55 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express the most serious objection to the plans for the American Museum of Natural History Gilder Center which will impinge on existing public park land. Over 11,600 square feet of Theodore Roosevelt Park is threatened by the current proposal along with at least seven magnificent canopy trees. These soaring trees have shaded our residents from sun and served as refuge for wildlife in inclement weather for more than 100 years and should stand for 100 years more. If this portion of Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

We see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is not an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must all object to.

It is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals. The architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

We ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

Francine Goldenhar 123 West 80th Street, 1R New York, NY 10024

From:

Ron Gordon <ronaldgordon.ny@gmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 9:13 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

Ron Gordon 118 West 79th Street NY, NY 10024

From: Sent: Jill Grant <jillkgrant@gmail.com> Friday, June 23, 2017 6:55 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

Jill Grant

UWS resident, parent to four young children

From:

Robin C. Greene <robincgreene@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 22, 2017 9:05 PM

То:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells, Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers. If 11,600 square feet of Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents. Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways - quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors. Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory. BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals. In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland. I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands. Thank you, [First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

Robin C. Greene robincgreene@yahoo.com 124 West 79th Street, #10B New York, NY 10024

From:

Robin C. Greene <robincgreene@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 3:15 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells, Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers. If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents. Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways - guiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors. Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals. In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland. I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands. Thank you, [First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

Robin C. Greene robincgreene@yahoo.com

From:

rhennessy@nyc.rr.com

Sent: To: Thursday, June 22, 2017 4:47 PM

Subject:

Wells, Owen (Parks) AMNH Expansion

Dear Mr. Wells.

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

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I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park

Bob Hennessy 212 769-4709 Office 917 747-5641 Cell

From: Sent: Lisa Kleger < lisakleger@yahoo.com> Sunday, June 25, 2017 3:36 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. In fact I have been a member of the AMNH for many years. I am also passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

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I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

Lisa Kleger 121 W. 72 St. NY, NY 10023

From:

Carol Martin <carolrmartin@me.com>

Sent: To: Monday, June 26, 2017 4:02 PM Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

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Thank you,

Kevin Bradley 255 West 88th Street New York, New York 10024

From:

Gloria McDarrah < gloriamcdarrah@gmail.com>

Sent:

Friday, June 23, 2017 9:12 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

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I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

Gloria McDarrah 505 LaGuardia Place New York 10012

From: Caesar Mendez <cajmendez@msn.com>

**Sent:** Saturday, June 24, 2017 7:46 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

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In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community%2 Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Sent: Antoinette <amuti@nyc.rr.com> Sunday, June 25, 2017 6:08 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

THE PROPOSED CENTER IS GIGANTIC AND UNSIGHTLY, AMD DEFINITELY DOES NOT BLEND WITH THE SETTING AND OTHER ARCHITECTURE.

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

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Thank you,

Antoinette Muti 65 West 83rd Street MY 10024

Also owner at the Park Belvedere 101 West 79th Street

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

From:

Brent Oppenheimer <b@brentoppenheimer.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 11:19 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

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Thank you,

Brent Oppenheimer 101 West 81st Street New York, NY 10024

From:

Arturo Salgado <asalgadony@aol.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 9:08 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

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Thank you,

Arturo Salgado

### JANE HERSHCOPF SCHRECK

175 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10024 212. 580.8893 jane.schreck@gmail.com

Owen Wells
Director of Environmental Review
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401
New York, New York 10065

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

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Thank you,

Jane Hershcopf Schreck Donald W. Schreck

From:

gailapples@aol.com

Sent:

Friday, June 23, 2017 6:49 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells, Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers. If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents. Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways - quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors. Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals. In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland. I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands. Thank you, [First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

Gail Schulman 235 West 71 Street New York, NY 10023

From: Sent: jesnyc2 <jesnyc2@gmail.com> Monday, June 26, 2017 8:37 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Importance:

High

Dear Mr. Wells,

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In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

As an alternative, resources could be spent on making the museum more accessible to NYC public school children, by creating mobile museums, to visit schools.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you, Jane Silverman 101 West 81st Street NY, NY 10024

From: Sent: CC TROY <bochie@verizon.net> Saturday, June 24, 2017 4:21 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

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trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public

park lands

Thank you,

Carolee Troy 200 West 79th St.

From: Sent: Norma <mnytuarte@hotmail.com> Thursday, June 22, 2017 4:30 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

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Thank you,
P.S. I can't believe that someone
Would not think it feasible to build
This project in an area that could
greatly benefit from such a
Fantastic facility; with greater access and potential of uplifting A neighborhood that sorely needs Growth and inclusion in this city's Vitality!!! Maybe the BRONX!!!!

First Name] [Last Name] [Address]
Norma Ytuarte
15 west 81st Street. 7G
10024

Joney Walks 1890 W 89 FC NEW YORK MY 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you. Sincerely,

Sandra Waller
Sporter
P.S. Plese remodel the doggy gens.

# AMNH Gilder Back Door Comment

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	<b>AMNH Gilder Back Door Comment</b>
From	Jamie Uhrig
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Sunday, June 18, 2017 9:52 AM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Richard Gilder Back Door. I had copied the form letter from one of the groups opposing it but think I will scrap that and just write my own comment.

I work around the world consulting in health and know that green spaces are needed for the health of people who live in urban spaces. Any decision to reduce green space in cities must balance the needs of the institutions that want to reduce it and the needs of residents who will feel its impact.

I think the AMNH is, somewhat like Teddy Roosevelt himself, acting like a bully in pushing through the plans for the Richard Gilder Back Door. The needs of all residents who use it should be heard. Hundreds of residents turn up to meetings and many more oppose it but cannot show up.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it will significantly compromise the health of residents. I would also like the Museum to 'open up' the part of the Park along 77th Street so that we can all walk through it and enjoy it.

Sincerely,	
Jamie	
+++++++++++	
Jamie Uhrig	
http://www.linkedin.com/in/jamie	uhrig

316 West 84th St Apt 6G New York NY 10024

+1 646 525 9945

+++++++++++++++

41 W. 82 St -7B

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: <u>owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov</u>

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

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Thank you.

Mun In SHOLDON SOFFER SOFFER

JANKE ZUPAN 200 W, 7974 ST. APT 6K NY NY 10024

Owen Wells
Director of Environmental Review
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401
New York, New York 10065

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you.

Sincerely, Japan 06/25/17

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nvc.gov

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Thank you. Sincerely,

Sharp Mancini too nowy of Sharp Mancini tep this park too noisy & crowded for him, he

423/17

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you.
Sincerely,

David Yau Fman
107 W. 82rd #23
NY, NY 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Raph Manuel
Raph Manuel
234 Easthookst, Jackson M5 39216
hove visiting the Park and the musum should build up! not out!

Love visiting the Park and the musum should build up! not out!

[Mens space is more valuable than a new addition to a building.

Telephone: (212) 360-3492 Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you.

Tanya Berezin 171 W. 79th St.



Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Elizabeth F. Harriel 171 West 29 St., #94 NY, NY 10724

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you,

Mage McManus [First Name] [Last Name]

[Address] 135 W. 79th St. #11A NM, NY 10029

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name]

[Address]

Sure-In Federic 731 Neil Ct. Wantagh, Ny 11793

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name]

[Address]

147 U 79 Lindsay Valente

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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[First Name] [Last Name]

[Address]

3 Bedford

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Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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[First Name] [Last Name]

69 W. 81 5 FW MC 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

(Inlene Dabb 25 W 75th Apr B New York NY 10023

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

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[First Name] [Last Name] \( \sigma \) ic \( \sigma \) Ohnson

[Address] \( \frac{2}{2} \sum \) \( \text{W} \) \( \frac{10023}{2} \)

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

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Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name] BEATRICE LEON [Address]

133 WEJT 80th Street #6

NY, NY, 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you, MOWA VILLICANA

[First Name] [Last Name]
[Address]

[Address]

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thankyou, Han St

[First Name] [Last Name]

[Address]

Hannah Shofet

101 W 79 th St. NY NY 10029

Telephone: (212) 360-3492 Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

DEMS NOWN 370 COLUMBUS AVE APT 35 NY NY 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492 Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

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Thank you, Shoff.

[First Name] [Last Name] Anastasiia Iuritskaia

[Address]

370 Colum Bus Ave, Apt. 2H

New York, New York 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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[Hirst Name] [Last Name]
[Address] 3 76 Co Jun Bur AVE. 1-B

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name] Chaig Sturges
[Address] 370 Columbus and #1-B
NY NY 10024

From:

Julie Andersen < jkandersen@nyc.rr.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 5:00 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am not anti-Museum. However, I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents. Our park is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals. Neighborhood families use the park for quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop now!

The AMNH's lack of planning has created the logistical and visitor flow problems, but building on public parkland is not the only way for the Museum to achieve its goals. In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint and without taking away any of Theodore Roosevelt Park.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our public park lands.

Thank you,

Julie Andersen 225 West 83rd St New Yor, NY 10024

From:

James Atlas <jamesatlasnyc@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 3:19 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

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In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you, James Atlas 40 West 77th Street

From:

Edith Baltazar <edith.baltazar@gmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 6:44 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Public Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If the 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds, and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

Edith Baltazar 255 West 85th Street #5CD New York, NY 10024

From:

Margareta Becker <margaretabecker@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 22, 2017 4:52 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

Proposed AMNH Gilder Center

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors. Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals. In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland. I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands

No one disputes the greatness of the Museum of Natural History, but sometimes even the greatest institutions go awry. The whole Upper West Side—the most densely populated part of Manhattan—will be affected by vastly increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic if the Gilder Center goes forward. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement acknowledges that, "Because existing traffic and pedestrian conditions are already congested at times and susceptible to worsening in service levels, even small increases in traffic and pedestrian levels could result in significant adverse impacts." This statement is so explosive that you'd think it alone could bring this ill-advised project to a halt. Thanks to bike lanes, existing parking spots, and double-parked trucks unloading, the two major Upper West Side arteries, Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues, have been reduced to mostly two lane streets. These arteries are so badly clogged that too often even emergency vehicles find themselves at a standstill. I regularly observe fire engines and ambulances stuck in traffic, blaring away for several minutes, unable to move an inch. On any given school day right now, as many as 100 school buses line the streets of this neighborhood, many of them with idling engines keeping waiting drivers warm in the cold months and cool in the hot months, their exhaust fumes poisoning the air. This is an ultra serious issue. But the Museum would like us to believe the problem can be easily mitigated by the simple, inexpensive and expedient signal changes and a widened crosswalk. If this were true, why hasn't the MTA done these things already? Wider crosswalks and re-timed signals can't deal with the traffic we already have, let alone congestion problems during the years of construction and afterward. Are we just supposed to accept life-threatening delays as a normal part of life? I implore you to reject the application for this illconceived project, which expects the UWS community to sacrifice its health and general well-being in exchange for little more than an expanded entrance hall? That would be a shabby deal for the neighborhood and the Upper West Side in general. It would be unworthy of the Museum.

Margareta Becker 45 West 81st Street

From:

Susan Beren <susanberen@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 3:49 PM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Please save Theodore Roosevelt Park

Owen Wells, Director of Environmental Review

New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I come here every single day with

uog, so it will be a personal loss not only for me but for so many of us in the neighborhood. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

Susan Beren

164 West 79 Street, 2a

New York, NY 10024

From:

Brooke, Rebecca <Brooke@frick.org> Monday, June 26, 2017 4:14 PM

Sent: To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the museum to reach its goals.

Please help us stop this project.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Brooke

UWS resident and long-time New Yorker

The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you received this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from any computer.

From: Sent: To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

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In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

From:

Mary Kim <greenvase215@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, June 25, 2017 4:27 PM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks)
We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

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In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you, Mary Kim 150 West 79th Street New York, NY 10024

From: Sent: Carol Lipis <carol.lipis@gmail.com> Thursday, June 22, 2017 4:38 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

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Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you, Carol Lipis 172 W. 79th St., Apt. 9A New York, NY 10024

From: Linda Faulhaber <boisher@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 9:08 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

Linda Faulhaber 370 Columbus Avenue New York, N.Y. 10024

From: eileen robbins <robbins.eileen@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, June 25, 2017 6:56 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public property and green space to be commercialized and built upon by a private institution must be stopped in its tracks. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems. It is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals. Rather than proactively explore alternatives, the Museum has arrogantly responded to legitimate options with a stock answer of it won't work, ie we want what we want because we want it.

The architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

Ilena J. Robbins 127 West 79th St., 8-C New York, NY 10024

From:

Glynn Rudich <glynn.rudich@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 12:13 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

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Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you, Glynn Rudich 173 West 78th Street NYC 10024

From:

Jane Scovell <vocsjane@gmail.com>

Sent:

Friday, June 23, 2017 1:45 PM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks)
We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

Jane Scovell 15 West 81st Street New York, NY 10024

From: Sent: Linda <lselman@nyc.rr.com> Friday, June 23, 2017 4:05 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you, Linda Selman [First Name] [Last Name] [Address] 157 West 79th Street New York, NY 10024

Sent from Linda's Iphone

From:

Don Shanley <donshanley@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 22, 2017 6:09 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

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I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

Don Shanley 155 W 74 Street NY NY

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From:

Betsy Silverman <betsywastaken@hotmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 4:41 PM

То:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Betsy Silverman 155 West 95th Street NY, NY 10025

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Carol Whitehead <crwhitehead1@gmail.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 22, 2017 3:51 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park, our city-owned public parkland that has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers.

If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors.

Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals.

In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you, Carol Whitehead 124 West 79th St #11A NYC 10024

Sent from my iPhone

From: Sent: Marilee <marileewyman@aol.com> Thursday, June 22, 2017 4:59 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

We Love Our Park - No AMNH Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells,

Let me state unequivocally that I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum. I am, however, passionate about protecting every inch of Theodore Roosevelt Park which has sustained the growth of magnificent legendary trees and has shaded generations of New Yorkers. If 11,600 square feet Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed and cemented to make way for the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center we permanently lose a valuable ecosystem that helps to promote the health and safety of all New York City residents.

Each year our park supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but as well as to our human community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors. Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space.

Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals. In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that *improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint* without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. It is principally an enormous entry way to the rest of the museum. In my opinion this is a shabby trade-off in which the city loses irreplaceable green space. It is unworthy of the AMNH itself.

I beg you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands.

Thank you,

Marilee Wyman 141 West 80 Street, 1R New York, NY 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

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Thank your formal last Name] [Last Name] 175 W 7 9 5+

Address

Vaknown 1

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Fax: (212) 360-3453

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[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

Unknown 2

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Fax: (212) 360-3453

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[First Name] [Last Name]

[Address]

370 Edumbres 5L N4C 10024

Vaknown 3

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[First Name] [Last Name]
[Address]

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Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name]

[Address] O

Last Name] Broad St 34 m FL ny ny 10004

Unknown 5

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Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name]

Spena Matagrer -- 147 W 79 H 5T. - 143 NY NY 10024

Unknownb



Form Letter 3

Telephone: (212) 360-3492 Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

370 columbus tue

Nem York MY

10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Tennifer Carison Tennifer Carison 90 Warren Rd Spara, NJ 07871

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Hunda Rienecken
Linda Rienecken
12 Stonehill DR., Unit 7
Vernon, NJ 07462

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you,

(Warphill [First Name] [Last Name]

[Address] William Campbell, Ph. D. 320 W. 5645treet #70

New York, NY 10019 TRC218@NYU.edu

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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[First Name] [Last Name]

[Address]

Spena WAAGOE-147 W 79 hn ST - 14B NY NY 10024

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Thank you,

Tei Andreso [First Name]

[Address]

112 W.7745+ #3

NY, MY 10024

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[First Name] [Last Name] And Stasiia Turitskaig

370 Cohumbus Ave apt. 2H

New York, New York, loosy

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[First Name] [Last Name]

[Address]

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10024

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[First Name] [Last Name]

[Address] 3 78 Columbu AVE. 1-13

NY, NY 10624

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Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name] Chaig Sturges [Address] 370 Columbus and #1-13 NY NY 10024

From: Sent:

crbeller . <crbeller@gmail.com> Monday, June 26, 2017 9:21 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

**AMNH Gilder Center Project** 

Owen Wells

Director of Environmental Review

New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

The Arsenal, Central Park

830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401

New York, New York 10065

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you,

Claude Beller

147 West 79th Street

New York, NY 10024

From:

Rebecca Brooke <br/>
<br/>
srooke.rebecca@gmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 4:20 PM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks) Gilder Center: NO NO NO

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

Taking public park land for a private institution is a terrible precedent. The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood cannot be tolerated. Please help stop this expansion.

Sincerely, Rebecca Brooke

From: Sent: Paige Cameron <paigec@me.com> Sunday, June 25, 2017 10:54 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

Sent from my iPhone

From: Sent: Tekle Eckrich <tekle.ab@gmail.com> Monday, June 26, 2017 9:01 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Tekle Eckrich 25 W 81st st

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Linda Faulhaber <boisher@icloud.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 22, 2017 10:24 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

From:

Nora Gaines <ngaines@bankstreet.edu>

Sent:

Friday, June 23, 2017 2:51 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you,

Nora Gaines 146 W. 80th St. New York, NY 10024

From:

Sue Gillis <suegi@earthlink.net> Thursday, June 22, 2017 9:15 PM

Sent: To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this.

Thank you for your consideration in this vital matter.

Sue Gillis 271 W 70th St NYC, NY 10023

Sent from my iPad

From: Stephanie Gordon <sgordon1221@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 9:10 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and a fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement acknowledges that "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built. Foot and vehicular traffic on 79th Street will increase incrementally to the point of being unpleasant and possibly dangerous.

Furthermore, many of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Since the museum space with the pool and fountains is not easily accessible, that space will remain underused.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you,

Stephanie Gordon 118 West 79th Street NYC 10024

Sgordon1221@gmail.com Sent from my iPad

From:

Mary Kim <greenvase215@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 4:28 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you, Mary Kim 150 West 79th Street New York, NY 10024

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Carol Lipis <carol.lipis@gmail.com> Thursday, June 22, 2017 4:44 PM

Sent: To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you, Carol Lipis 172 W. 79th St., 9A NYC 10024

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Cornelia Ravenal <ravencjr@hotmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 3:33 PM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Please stop the Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells -

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

My husband and I, having lived a block from the Museum for decades, have three areas of concern:

1. First, the museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

In addition -

The whole Upper West Side—the most densely populated part of Manhattan—will be affected by vastly increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic if the Gilder Center goes forward. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement acknowledges that, "Because existing traffic and pedestrian conditions are already congested at times and susceptible to worsening in service levels, even small increases in traffic and pedestrian levels could result in significant adverse impacts."

This statement is so explosive that you'd think it alone could bring this ill-advised project to a halt.

Thanks to bike lanes, existing parking spots, and double-parked trucks unloading, the two major Upper West Side arteries, Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues, have been reduced to mostly two lane streets. These arteries are so badly clogged that too often even emergency vehicles find themselves at a standstill. I regularly observe fire engines and ambulances stuck in traffic, blaring away for several minutes, unable to move an inch.

On any given school day right now, as many as 100 school buses line the streets of this neighborhood, many of them with idling engines keeping waiting drivers warm in the cold months and cool in the hot months, their exhaust fumes poisoning the air.

This is an ultra serious issue. But the Museum would like us to believe the problem can be easily mitigated by the simple, inexpensive and expedient signal changes and a widened crosswalk.

If this were true, why hasn't the MTA done these things already? Wider crosswalks and retimed signals can't deal with the traffic we already have, let alone congestion problems during the years of construction and afterward. Are we just supposed to accept lifethreatening delays as a normal part of life?

In addition -

3. Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer

dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

In sum, I implore you to reject the application for this ill-conceived project, which expects the UWS community to sacrifice its health and general well-being in exchange for little more than an expanded entrance hall. That would be a shabby deal for the neighborhood and the Upper West Side in general. It would be unworthy of the Museum.

Thank you. Cornelia Ravenal

Cornelia Ravenal 127 W 79th St #16a New York NY 10024

From:

Jane Scovell <vocsjane@gmail.com>

Sent:

Friday, June 23, 2017 1:47 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you,

Jane Scovell 15 West 81st Street New York, NY 10024

From:

Don Shanley <donshanley@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Friday, June 23, 2017 5:40 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you,

Don Shanley 155 W 74 Street NY NY

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From:

Betsy Silverman <betsywastaken@hotmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 4:43 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you Betsy Silverman 155 West 95th Street New York, NY 10025

Sent from my iPhone

From: stone randi <nycpilates@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 7:43 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: I oppose the AMNH expansion, as currently planned

Owen Wells Director of Environmental Review New York City Department of Parks and Recreation The Arsenal, Central Park 830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401 New York, New York 10065

Telephone: (212) 360-3492 Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder <u>Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose</u> Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you,

Randi Stone 101 West 81st St Apt 516 New York, NY 10024

Randi L. Stone <www.nyc-pilates.com> <www.MovinMamas.com>
C - 917-951-5004

From: Sent: Greg B <grbee55@gmail.com> Monday, June 26, 2017 8:54 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH: More Crowds, Trash & Rats?

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

Camille Vickers 200 West 79th Street

From:

Carol Whitehead <crwhitehead1@gmail.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 22, 2017 3:57 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you, Carol Whitehead 124 West 79th St 11A NYC 10024

Sent from my iPhone

From: Sent: Marilee <marileewyman@aol.com>

To:

Thursday, June 22, 2017 5:25 PM Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

Incredibly, the museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says the Center "would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area." The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built. Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance and over the steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

To greenlight this project WITHOUT a pedestrian traffic study is foolhardy and I presume the AMNH did not do it because, after their experience with the Planetarium, they already expect it would show unacceptable data.

In addition, the AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder Center will inevitably be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Avenue in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash, where receptacles are already overflowing, will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs. The negative impact of this project on the quality of life for the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable.

I beg you to reject this proposal, or at a minimum, require further studies to determine the impact on the community.

Thank you,

Marilee Wyman 141 West 80 Street, 1R New York, NY 10024

From:

Carol Martin <carolrmartin@me.com> Monday, June 26, 2017 4:00 PM

Sent: To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you,

Carol Martin 255 West 88th Street, Apt 7C New York, New York

From: Sent: Antoinette <amuti@nyc.rr.com> Sunday, June 25, 2017 6:06 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

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I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you,

Antoinette Muti 65 West 83rd Street MY 10024

Also owner at the Park Belvedere 101 West 79th Street

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

From: Brent Oppenheimer <b@brentoppenheimer.com>

Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 11:20 AM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: AMNH Gilder Center = More Crowds, Trash & Rats

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I ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you,

Brent Oppenheimer 101 West 81st Street New York, NY 10024

From:

Glynn Rudich <glynn.rudich@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 12:14 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

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Thank you,

Glynn Rudich 173 West 78th Street NYC 10024



Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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[First Name] [Last Name] 175 W 79 h 54

Unknown 1

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name]

[Address]

LISA LOVEROW

370 Columbs Are

NY N.Y. 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

[Address]

370 Collembus Ave 53 NYC 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492 Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Form Letter 4

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Sincerely,

[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

Ryann Sione 370 (olumbus Ave #5A

Nem Jak NA

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

June 23, 2017

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Pan ( A) ary 118 W 73rd St #3A NYC, 10023

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Deliga Telsey 487 Columbis Ave NY NY 10024

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Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

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Sincerely, Will Rienecker 3573 Jericho Dr. Casselberry, FL 32707



Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Sincerely,

[First Name] [Last Name] BEATRILE LEON
[Address]

133 WEST 80th street \$6

NY, NY, 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nvc.gov

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[First Name] [Last Name] MONA VILLIERWY
[Address]

[Manual Manual Manual

energy are pollution

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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[First Name] [Last Name] 175 W.79 st

[Address]

Telephone: (212) 360-3492 Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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DENIS J NOWN STO COLYBUS AVE APT 35 NY NY 10024

Sincerely,

[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

Telephone: (212) 360-3492 Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Sincerely,

[First Name] [Last Name]

[Address]

37 Columbus Au

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New WKY, NY

My 6-your-ald day hore lives hore and attends 15334 she will breather this oil day !

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

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Sincerely, W. Rexac

[First Name] [Last Name]

[Address] 370 Columbia AVE 1-B

NY, NY 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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The proposed Gilder Center's construction is estimated to last 3-5 years emitting between 6,165 - 10,275 metric tons of CO2 and distribution fine particulate matter into the air from demolition, excavation, and construction. Additionally, The AMNH is silent on the subject of the ongoing carrying costs of heating, cooling, and annual CO2 emissions.

We hold the museum board, our elected officials, and government agencies at every level accountable to our demands for a healthy city, clean environment, and renewable energy future – for today's New Yorkers and generations to come. I ask you to halt this dangerous proposal.

Sincerely,

[First Name] [Last Name] Craig Sturgis [Address] 370 Columbus are #1-B NY NY 10024

From: Sent: Brooke, Rebecca <Brooke@frick.org> Monday, June 26, 2017 4:15 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center is Unsustainable

Dear Mr. Wells,

The American Museum of Natural History operates under five guiding sustainability principles, unfortunately the AMNH's proposed Gilder Center falls far short of their goals. The planned expansion is also completely out of sync with the spirit of New York City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthier, more sustainable city.

New York City is known for many things, but clean air isn't one of them. It's easy to take the air we breathe for granted, but air pollution comes with many health risks – asthma, bronchitis, lung cancer, and heart disease. An estimated 2,700 pre-mature deaths per year could be attributed to fine particulate matter and ozone. (source: Earth Institute, Columbia University)

The museum's plan for this structure does not propose using any sustainable source of energy – it will be run entirely on antiquated fossil fuel systems further contributing to air pollution.

Please help us stop this project.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Brooke

UWS resident and long-time New Yorker

The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you received this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from any computer.

From:

Camilla Calamandrei <camillacala@gmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 12:29 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

Please reject the AMNH Gilder Center as proposed, and save our park

Dear Mr. Wells,

I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal to build the Gilder Center as currently proposed, and:

- protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands
- protect us (and our health) from known toxins
- protect future generations from climate change disaster by demanding energy efficient and carbon responsible development

I am not, anti-Science nor anti-Museum but if 11,600 square feet of Theodore Roosevelt Park is destroyed for the proposed Gilder Center we will lose a valuable ecosystem supports wildlife and our own well-being. Each year our park provides support to thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community.

The purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees.

I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals. In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland.

I am also deeply concerned about the finding in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement of May 18th: "Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

And the fact that the museums plan for this structure does not propose using any sustainable source of energy—it will be run entirely on antiquated fossil fuel systems further contributing to air pollution. According to the draft environmental impact statement: "the proposed project is expected to use the museum's existing ConEdison steam service connection for the project's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) needs." In addition, the construction itself will be wildly carbon intensive with "Greenhouse Gas Emissions estimated at 2,055 metric tons CO2e per year, with roughly 40 percent of that amount from on-road sources, and 60 percent from building energy. ... construction emissions were not modeled explicitly, but are estimated to be equivalent to approximately 5 to 10 years of operational emissions."

Please, be the leader of PARKS and reject the AMNH's proposal to build the Gilder Center as currently proposed.

Thank you for your consideration and the work you do on behalf of all of us.

Camilla Calamandrei

Camilla Calamandrei 917-327-9579 CamillaCala@gmail.com

Website: https://camillacalamandrei.com/

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/calamandrei

From: Sent: Paige Cameron <paigec@me.com> Sunday, June 25, 2017 10:54 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center is Unsustainable

The American Museum of Natural History operates under five guiding sustainability principles, unfortunately the AMNH's proposed Gilder Center falls far short of their goals. The planned expansion is also completely out of sync with the spirit of New York City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthier, more sustainable city.

New York City is known for many things, but clean air isn't one of them. It's easy to take the air we breathe for granted, but air pollution comes with many health risks – asthma, bronchitis, lung cancer, and heart disease. An estimated 2,700 pre-mature deaths per year could be attributed to fine particulate matter and ozone. (source: Earth Institute, Columbia University)

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According to the draft environmental impact statement:

"the proposed project is expected to use the museum's existing ConEdison steam service connection for the project's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) needs."

"Greenhouse Gas Emissions estimated at 2,055 metric tons CO2e per year, with roughly 40 percent of that amount from on-road sources, and 60 percent from building energy. ... construction emissions were not modeled explicitly, but are estimated to be equivalent to approximately 5 to 10 years of operational emissions."

The proposed Gilder Center's construction is estimated to last 3-5 years emitting between 6,165 - 10,275 metric tons of CO2 and distribution fine particulate matter into the air from demolition, excavation, and construction. Additionally, The AMNH is silent on the subject of the ongoing carrying costs of heating, cooling, and annual CO2 emissions.

We hold the museum board, our elected officials, and government agencies at every level accountable to our demands for a healthy city, clean environment, and renewable energy future – for today's New Yorkers and generations to come. I ask you to halt this dangerous proposal.

Sincerely,

[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Nancy Crampton <nancycrampton@gmail.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 22, 2017 9:31 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center is Unsustainable

The American Museum of Natural History operates under five guiding sustainability principles; unfortunately the AMNH's proposed Gilder Center falls far short of their goals. The planned expansion is also completely out of sync with the spirit of New York City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthier, more sustainable city.

New York City is known for many things, but clean air isn't one of them. It's easy to take the air we breathe for granted, but air pollution comes with many health risks – asthma, bronchitis, lung cancer, and heart disease. An estimated 2,700 premature deaths per year could be attributed to fine particulate matter and ozone. (source: Earth Institute, Columbia University)

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We hold the museum board, our elected officials, and government agencies at every level accountable to our demands for a healthy city, clean environment, and renewable energy future – for today's New Yorkers and generations to come. I ask you to halt this dangerous proposal.

Sincerely,

Nancy Crampton 35 West 9th Street, #9D New York, NY 10011

From: Sent: Inez Diaz <inez@marisolfineart.com> Monday, June 26, 2017 9:06 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center is Unsustainable

The American Museum of Natural History operates under five guiding sustainability principles, unfortunately the AMNH's proposed Gilder Center falls far short of their goals. The planned expansion is also completely out of sync with the spirit of New York City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthier, more sustainable city.

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We hold the museum board, our elected officials, and government agencies at every level accountable to our demands for a healthy city, clean environment, and renewable energy future – for today's New Yorkers and generations to come. I ask you to halt this dangerous proposal.

Sincerely,

Inez Diaz 1385 York Avenue New York, NY. 10021

From:

Nora Gaines <ngaines@bankstreet.edu>

Sent:

Friday, June 23, 2017 2:51 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center is Unsustainable

The American Museum of Natural History operates under five guiding sustainability principles, unfortunately the AMNH's proposed Gilder Center falls far short of their goals. The planned expansion is also completely out of sync with the spirit of New York City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthier, more sustainable city.

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We hold the museum board, our elected officials, and government agencies at every level accountable to our demands for a healthy city, clean environment, and renewable energy future – for today's New Yorkers and generations to come. I ask you to halt this dangerous proposal.

Sincerely,

Nora Gaines 146 W. 80th St. New York, NY 10024

From: Sent: Amy Harlib <amyharlib@gmail.com> Thursday, June 22, 2017 4:19 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

Gilder Center

# amyharlib@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Wells,

#### STOP THE GILDER CENTER BOONDOGGLE!

The American Museum of Natural History operates under five guiding sustainability principles, unfortunately the AMNH's proposed Gilder Center falls far short of their goals. The planned expansion is also completely out of sync with the spirit of New York City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthier, more sustainable city.

New York City is known for many things, but clean air isn't one of them. It's easy to take the air we breathe for granted, but air pollution comes with many health risks – asthma, bronchitis, lung cancer, and heart disease. An estimated 2,700 pre-mature deaths per year could be attributed to fine particulate matter and ozone. (source: Earth Institute, Columbia University)

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Sincerely,

Amy Harlib 212 West 22nd St. #2N N.Y., NY 10011

From:

Karan Hoondlani <karan.hoondlani@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 5:10 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center is Unsustainable

Dear Sir/Madam,

The American Museum of Natural History operates under five guiding sustainability principles, unfortunately the AMNH's proposed Gilder Center falls far short of their goals. The planned expansion is also completely out of sync with the spirit of New York City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthier, more sustainable city.

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Sincerely,

Karan Hoondlani

From:

Susan Warren <sigspec@optonline.net>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 7:32 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center is Unsustainable

I am against the expansion of a building which is already adequate for its needs. There are many reasons not to increase the size. Below is one of the most pressing reasons.

The American Museum of Natural History operates under five guiding sustainability principles, unfortunately the AMNH's proposed Gilder Center falls far short of their goals. The planned expansion is also completely out of sync with the spirit of New York City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthier, more sustainable city.

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"Greenhouse Gas Emissions estimated at 2,055 metric tons CO2e per year, with roughly 40 percent of that amount from on-road sources, and 60 percent from building energy. ... construction emissions were not modeled explicitly, but are estimated

Sincerely,

Susan Warren

From:

Mary Kim <greenvase215@gmail.com>

Sent: To: Sunday, June 25, 2017 4:28 PM Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center is Unsustainable

The American Museum of Natural History operates under five guiding sustainability principles, unfortunately the AMNH's proposed Gilder Center falls far short of their goals. The planned expansion is also completely out of sync with the spirit of New York City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthier, more sustainable city.

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We hold the museum board, our elected officials, and government agencies at every level accountable to our demands for a healthy city, clean environment, and renewable energy future – for today's New Yorkers and generations to come. I ask you to halt this dangerous proposal.

Sincerely, Mary Kim 150 West 79th Street New York, NY 10024

Sent from my iPhone

1

From: Sent: Carol Lipis <carol.lipis@gmail.com> Thursday, June 22, 2017 4:41 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center is Unsustainable

The American Museum of Natural History operates under five guiding sustainability principles, unfortunately the AMNH's proposed Gilder Center falls far short of their goals. The planned expansion is also completely out of sync with the spirit of New York City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthier, more sustainable city.

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We hold the museum board, our elected officials, and government agencies at every level accountable to our demands for a healthy city, clean environment, and renewable energy future – for today's New Yorkers and generations to come. I ask you to halt this dangerous proposal.

Sincerely, Carol lipis 172 W. 79th St., 9A New York, NY 10024

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Brent Oppenheimer <b@brentoppenheimer.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 11:19 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center is Unsustainable

The American Museum of Natural History operates under five guiding sustainability principles, unfortunately the AMNH's proposed Gilder Center falls far short of their goals. The planned expansion is also completely out of sync with the spirit of New York City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthier, more sustainable city.

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We hold the museum board, our elected officials, and government agencies at every level accountable to our demands for a healthy city, clean environment, and renewable energy future – for today's New Yorkers and generations to come. I ask you to halt this dangerous proposal.

Sincerely,

Brent Oppenheimer 101 West 81st Street New York, NY 10024



From: Jane Scovell <vocsjane@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 1:46 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: AMNH Gilder Center is Unsustainable

The American Museum of Natural History operates under five guiding sustainability principles, unfortunately the AMNH's proposed Gilder Center falls far short of their goals. The planned expansion is also completely out of sync with the spirit of New York City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthier, more sustainable city.

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Sincerely,

Jane Scovell 15 West 81st Street New York NY 10024

From:

Betsy Silverman <betsywastaken@hotmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 4:43 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center is Unsustainable

The American Museum of Natural History operates under five guiding sustainability principles, unfortunately the AMNH's proposed Gilder Center falls far short of their goals. The planned expansion is also completely out of sync with the spirit of New York City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthier, more sustainable city.

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We hold the museum board, our elected officials, and government agencies at every level accountable to our demands for a healthy city, clean environment, and renewable energy future – for today's New Yorkers and generations to come. I ask you to halt this dangerous

Betsy Silverman 155 West 95th Street New York, NY 10025

Sent from my iPhone

From: Sent: Marilee <marileewyman@aol.com> Thursday, June 22, 2017 5:12 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center is Unsustainable

The American Museum of Natural History operates under five guiding sustainability principles, but unfortunately the AMNH's proposed Gilder Center falls far short of their own stated goals. The planned expansion is also completely out of sync with the spirit of New York City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthier, more sustainable city.

It's easy to take the air we breathe for granted, but air pollution is real and comes with many health risks – asthma, bronchitis, lung cancer, and heart disease. An estimated 2,700 premature deaths per year could be attributed to fine particulate matter and ozone. (source: Earth Institute, Columbia University) The AMNH's plan for this structure does not propose using *any* sustainable source of energy – it will be run entirely on antiquated fossil fuel systems further contributing to air pollution. How can this possibly be acceptable when we know how to do better?

According to the draft environmental impact statement: "the proposed project is expected to use the museum's existing ConEdison steam service connection for the project's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) needs." "Greenhouse Gas Emissions estimated at 2,055 metric tons CO2e per year, with roughly 40 percent of that amount from on-road sources, and 60 percent from building energy. ... construction emissions were not modeled explicitly, but are estimated to be equivalent to approximately 5 to 10 years of operational emissions." The proposed Gilder Center's construction is estimated to last 3-5 years emitting between 6,165 - 10,275 metric tons of CO2 and distribution fine particulate matter into the air from demolition, excavation, and construction.

To behave as if this would have no impact on the surrounding area is reckless, as it will clearly endanger to all who live here.

Additionally, The AMNH is silent on the subject of the ongoing carrying costs of heating, cooling, and annual CO2 emissions. We hold the museum board, our elected officials, and government agencies at every level accountable to our demands for a healthy city, clean environment, and renewable energy future – for today's New Yorkers and generations to come.

I beg you to halt this dangerous proposal.

Sincerely,

Marilee Wyman 141 West 80 Street, 1R New York, NY 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

The American Museum of Natural History operates under five guiding sustainability principles, unfortunately the AMNH's proposed Gilder Center falls far short of their goals. The planned expansion is also completely out of sync with the spirit of New York City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthier, more sustainable city.

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The proposed Gilder Center's construction is estimated to last 3-5 years emitting between 6,165 - 10,275 metric tons of CO2 and distribution fine particulate matter into the air from demolition, excavation, and construction. Additionally, The AMNH is silent on the subject of the ongoing carrying costs of heating, cooling, and annual CO2 emissions.

We hold the museum board, our elected officials, and government agencies at every level accountable to our demands for a healthy city, clean environment, and renewable energy future - for today's New Yorkers and generations to come. I ask you to halt this dangerous proposal.

First Name] [Last Name]

370 Columbras Avenue 436 N.Y. W.Y. 16024

Unknown 2

Telephone: (212) 360-3492 Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

The American Museum of Natural History operates under five guiding sustainability principles, unfortunately the AMNH's proposed Gilder Center falls far short of their goals. The planned expansion is also completely out of sync with the spirit of New York City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthier, more sustainable city.

New York City is known for many things, but clean air isn't one of them. It's easy to take the air we breathe for granted, but air pollution comes with many health risks - asthma, bronchitis, lung cancer, and heart disease. An estimated 2,700 pre-mature deaths per year could be attributed to fine particulate matter and ozone. (source: Earth Institute, Columbia University)

The museums plan for this structure does not propose using any sustainable source of energy - it will be run entirely on antiquated fossil fuel systems further contributing to air pollution. According to the draft environmental impact statement:

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[Address]

370 Columbus 5L

NYC 10024

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112 W. BOM St. Apt IR NY, MY /0 24

Vaknown 7

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[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

Ryann sione

370 columbus AM #5A

New York, NY 10024

Form Letter 5

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Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nangdue Bista works. 8842 43rd Ave, Elmhurst, NY-11373

P.S - I use the dog run everyday

# AMNH Gilder Center - comment

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

11:08 AM

Subject	AMNH Gilder Center - comment
From	Margaret A. Tobin
То	Wells, Owen (Parks)
Sent	Friday, June 16, 2017 2:46 PM

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the AMNH's Gilder Center. In the original scoping, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation "has determined that the proposed [AMNH] project may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment" and "may have a potential for significant impacts on the environment." I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

As it is currently envisioned, a major expansion of the 79th Street entrance will bring to a stop the neighborhood's quiet enjoyment of the park area. On Sundays, the farmers market is a lovely neighborhood magnet which WOULD NOT be able to operate if the Gilder Center becomes a 4th major entrance into the museum. Columbus Avenue is already backed up with truck traffic, bike lanes, taxis, the buses (both M79 crosstown and the 2 downtown buses M7 and M11). A new major entrance would make the noise and pollution levels intolerable and not safe for children or any pedestrians. The 3 major museum entrances are either set back far from the street (81st and 77th Street entrances) or the only thing happening for FOUR city blocks (Central Park West). The backside of the museum allows the 79th Street area to be used locally, rather than dominated by regional uses. That the 4th side belongs to the neighborhood and is already actively used by the neighborhood should be self-evident. It simply cannot be appropriated by the museum to use as it sees fit. The park, the sidewalk where the farmers market happens, and Columbus Avenue which is already past capacity cannot absorb any further encroachment by a museum which already has 3 major entrances.

Please spend some time on the 79th Street side and watch how it is already being fully used today. I think you will agree that the Gilder Center will radically change the character and nature of the current uses, negatively impact the neighborhood, and literally destroy the farmers market as well as make Columbus Avenue unfit for human life.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

Margaret Tobin 5 West 86th Street, 10E New York, NY 10024

917-226-6241

GENEVIEVE MONTGOMEN 57 West 75 st. Polz ny, ny 10023

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Jensvirle Montomera

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Celle W. Cushleed New York Af 10039

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27 W. 82nd

10024

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Thank you. Sincerely,

This park is the best part of my dog's day, and without it, his life would not be the same. Please think of the countless puppies' lives that you are affecting.

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Thank you. Sincerely,

STEFAN SILEN 122 W BOTH STREET, APT 4F NEW YORK INY 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492 Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

June 23, 2017

Dear Mr. Wells,

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Linda Wainhouse 15 W. 81st 81.

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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4

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Ten: Andersoc

[First Name] [Last Name]

113 W. 77+ St #3

NY NY 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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[First Name] [Last Name] MONA WILLCANN

[Mon Vill

101 w 79 St

Telephone: (212) 360-3492 Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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DENIS NOWN 370 COLUMBUS AVE APT 35 NY NY 10024

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[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

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Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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[First Name] [Last Name] Anastasiia Iuritskaia

340 Cohumbies Ave apt. 2H,

New York, New York. 20024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

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Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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[First Name] [Last Name] o Columbus Ave 58 ew York, 14 1002-4

[Address]

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

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[Address] 376 Cofungue file. 1. B

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Thank you.

[First Name] [Last Name] Craig Sturgis
[Address] 370 Columbus ave #1-8
NY NY 10024

From: Margareta Becker <margaretabecker@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 4:52 PM

To: Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject: Proposed AMNH Gilder Center

Each year our park not only supports and is a respite for thousands of migratory birds, native birds and small animals, but also to our entire community. Families use the park in a multitude of ways – quiet reading, recreation for children, walking our dogs, and visiting with our neighbors. Allowing our public assets and green space to be developed and built upon by a private institution is a trend we must stop in its tracks. I do support the project initiative in theory, BUT not if it requires us to sacrifice our green space. Historically, the AMNH's lack of planning has given way to the wide range of logistical and visitor flow problems, but it is inconceivable that building on public parkland is the only solution enabling the Museum to reach its goals. In fact, the architect for the project, Jeanne Gang, acknowledged publicly (Community Board 7 Meeting, November 1, 2016) that improvements to visitor flow could be made within the museum's existing footprint without taking away one inch of New York's finite and valuable public parkland. I see our green space resources shrinking without any constructive purpose - the purpose of the Gilder Center is NOT an equal trade for the loss of this irreplaceable park and its canopy trees. I ask you to reject the AMNH's proposal and protect our rapidly vanishing public park lands

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Margareta Becker 45 West 81st Street

From:

Sent: To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center's Dangerous Traffic

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Thank you.

[First Name] [Last Name] [Address]

Sent from my iPhone

From: Sent: Joyce <jfitznh@gmail.com> Sunday, June 25, 2017 6:41 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center: say No!

The whole Upper West Side—the most densely populated part of Manhattan—will be affected by vastly increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic if the Gilder Center goes forward.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement acknowledges this in a statement is so explosive that you'd think it alone could bring this ill-advised project to a halt.

Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues have been reduced to mostly two-lane streets. These arteries are so badly clogged that too often even emergency vehicles find themselves at a standstill. I've seen fire engines and ambulances stuck in traffic, blaring away for several minutes, unable to move an inch.

This is an serious issue to gratify one egocentric donor. But the Museum would like us to believe the problem can be easily mitigated by the simple, inexpensive and expedient signal changes and a widened crosswalk.

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It would be unworthy of the Museum.

Thank you.

Joyce Fitzpatrick 72nd & Columbus.

From:

Nora Gaines <ngaines@bankstreet.edu>

Sent: To: Friday, June 23, 2017 2:50 PM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks)

AMNH Gilder Center's Dangerous Traffic

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Thank you.

Nora Gaines 146 W. 80th St. New York, NY 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you.

Susan Gill 136 West 80 Street, NY, NY

From: Sent: Diane Glass <dglass3@hotmail.com> Monday, June 26, 2017 9:12 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

Protest AMNH expansion plans

Owen Wells

Director of Environmental Review

New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

The Arsenal, Central Park

830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401

New York, New York 10065

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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Thank you.

Diane Glass

101 W 81st St New York, NY 10024,

June 25, 2017

Owen Wells
Director of Environmental Review
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401
New York, New York 10065

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

I live on Amsterdam and West 80<sup>th</sup> and visit Theodore Roosevelt Park with my dog at least three times a day. I purchased an apartment on this block in the spring of 2015 in large part because of its close proximity to the Museum of Natural History, park, dog run and tranquil tree-lined street. I strongly believe the whole Upper West Side—the most densely populated part of Manhattan—will be negatively impacted by vastly increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic if the Gilder Center is constructed.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) acknowledges that, "Because existing traffic and pedestrian conditions are already congested at times and susceptible to worsening in service levels, even <a href="mailto:small">small</a> increases in traffic and pedestrian levels could result in <a href="mailto:significant">significant</a> adverse impacts." Additionally, the DEIS states, "The AMNH will see an incremental increase of approximately 745,000 people annually."

Thanks to bike lanes, existing parking spots, and double-parked trucks unloading, the two major Upper West Side arteries, Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues, have been reduced to mostly two lane streets. I have almost been hit by bikes with my dog on more than one occasion crossing Columbus. The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park are unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

The Museum would like us to believe the problem can be easily mitigated by the simple, inexpensive and expedient signal changes and a widened crosswalk. If this were true, why hasn't the MTA done these things already? Wider crosswalks and re-timed signals can't deal with the traffic we already have, let alone congestion problems during the five years of construction and afterward.

I implore you to reject the application for this ill-conceived, unwanted 'mammoth vanity' project, which expects the UWS community to sacrifice its health and general well-being in exchange for little more than an expanded exhibition space, paid for by my own tax dollars.

Thank you.

Sara Hale 186 W. 80<sup>th</sup> St. Apt. 3B New York, NY 10024

From: Sent: Cornelia Ravenal <ravencjr@hotmail.com>

To:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 3:33 PM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks)
Please stop the Gilder Center

Dear Mr. Wells -

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

My husband and I, having lived a block from the Museum for decades, have three areas of concern:

1. First, the museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, "[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area."

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH's DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

In addition -

 The whole Upper West Side—the most densely populated part of Manhattan—will be affected by vastly increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic if the Gilder Center goes forward. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement acknowledges that, "Because existing traffic and pedestrian conditions are already congested at times and susceptible to worsening in service levels, even small increases in traffic and pedestrian levels could result in significant adverse impacts."

This statement is so explosive that you'd think it alone could bring this ill-advised project to a halt.

Thanks to bike lanes, existing parking spots, and double-parked trucks unloading, the two major Upper West Side arteries, Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues, have been reduced to mostly two lane streets. These arteries are so badly clogged that too often even emergency vehicles find themselves at a standstill. I regularly observe fire engines and ambulances stuck in traffic, blaring away for several minutes, unable to move an inch.

On any given school day right now, as many as 100 school buses line the streets of this neighborhood, many of them with idling engines keeping waiting drivers warm in the cold months and cool in the hot months, their exhaust fumes poisoning the air.

This is an ultra serious issue. But the Museum would like us to believe the problem can be easily mitigated by the simple, inexpensive and expedient signal changes and a widened crosswalk.

If this were true, why hasn't the MTA done these things already? Wider crosswalks and retimed signals can't deal with the traffic we already have, let alone congestion problems during the years of construction and afterward. Are we just supposed to accept life-threatening delays as a normal part of life?

In addition -

3. Now after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on May 18th, we know:

"Hazardous materials contaminants and fill of unknown origin" consisting of beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel, along with PAHs and industrial solvents have been found in both soil and ground water samples.

Threats to our air, soil, and water quality are present in the form of gas tanks, oil, and coal storage facilities.

Not only is the AMNH endangering the community with this project, they are also stealing our public parkland, as a private institution they have taken \$135 Million of taxpayer

dollars and have shown little concern for sustainability or the outcry from the neighborhood.

I am firmly opposed to this project moving forward on the grounds that it WILL significantly endanger the health and safety the people and the environment.

In sum, I implore you to reject the application for this ill-conceived project, which expects the UWS community to sacrifice its health and general well-being in exchange for little more than an expanded entrance hall. That would be a shabby deal for the neighborhood and the Upper West Side in general. It would be unworthy of the Museum.

Thank you. Cornelia Ravenal

Cornelia Ravenal 127 W 79th St #16a New York NY 10024

From:

eileen robbins <robbins.eileen@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 6:59 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center's Dangerous Traffic

No one disputes the greatness of the Museum of Natural History, but sometimes even the greatest institutions go awry. The whole Upper West Side—the most densely populated part of Manhattan—will be affected by vastly increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic if the Gilder Center goes forward.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement acknowledges that, "Because existing traffic and pedestrian conditions are already congested at times and susceptible to worsening in service levels, even small increases in traffic and pedestrian levels could result in significant adverse impacts."

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On any given school day right now, as many as 100 school buses line the streets of this neighborhood, many of them with idling engines keeping waiting drivers warm in the cold months and cool in the hot months, their exhaust fumes poisoning the air.

This is a serious problem. But the Museum would like us to believe the problem can be easily mitigated by the simple, inexpensive and expedient signal changes and a widened crosswalk.

If this were true, why hasn't the DOT done these things already? Wider crosswalks and re-timed signals can't deal with the traffic we already have, let alone congestion problems during the years of construction and afterward. Are we just supposed to accept life-threatening delays as a normal part of life?

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Thank you.

Eileen D. Robbins 127 West 79th St. 8-C New York, NY 10024

From: Sent: Linda <lselman@nyc.rr.com> Friday, June 23, 2017 4:08 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

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Thank you. Linda Selman [First Name] [Last Name] 157 West 79th Street New York, NY 10024

Sent from Linda's Iphone

From: Sent: D White <kirklandst@yahoo.com> Friday, June 23, 2017 12:29 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

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Thank you.

Dorothy White 101 W 79 St 7A

From:

Mary Kim <greenvase215@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 4:27 PM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks)
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Thank you. Mary Kim 150 West 79th Street New York, NY 10024

5

From: Sent: Antoinette <amuti@nyc.rr.com> Sunday, June 25, 2017 6:06 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

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Thank you.

Antoinette Muti 65 West 83rd Street MY 10024

Also owner at the Park Belvedere 101 West 79th Street

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

5

From:

Brent Oppenheimer <b@brentoppenheimer.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 11:19 AM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

AMNH Gilder Center's Dangerous Traffic

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Thank you.

Brent Oppenheimer 101 West 81st Street New York, NY 10024

From:

Jane Scovell <vocsjane@gmail.com>

Sent:

Friday, June 23, 2017 1:46 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

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Thank you.

Jane Scovell 15 West 81st Street New York NY 10024

5

From:

Don Shanley <donshanley@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 4:23 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

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Thank you.

Don Shanley 155 W 74 Street NY NY

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

5

From:

Betsy Silverman <betsywastaken@hotmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 26, 2017 4:42 PM

To: Subject: Wells, Owen (Parks)
AMNH Gilder Center's Dangerous Traffic

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Betsy Silverman 155 West 95th Street NY, NY 10025

From:

Carol Whitehead <crwhitehead1@gmail.com>

Sent: To: Thursday, June 22, 2017 3:52 PM

Subject:

Wells, Owen (Parks)
AMNH Gilder Center's Dangerous Traffic

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Thank you. Carol Whitehead 124 W 79th St 11A NYC 10024

5

From: Sent: Marilee <marileewyman@aol.com> Thursday, June 22, 2017 4:48 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

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Thank you.

Marilee Wyman 141 West 80 Street, 1R New York, NY10024

#### 5

# Wells, Owen (Parks)

From: Sent: Norma <mnytuarte@hotmail.com> Thursday, June 22, 2017 4:23 PM

To:

Wells, Owen (Parks)

Subject:

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Thank you.
Norma Ytuarte
15 west 81st street 7G. 10024
[First Name] [Last Name]
[Address]

Telephone: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

Dear Mr. Wells,

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This statement is so explosive that you'd think it alone could bring this ill-advised project to a halt.

Thanks to bike lanes, existing parking spots, and double-parked trucks unloading, the two major Upper West Side arteries, Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues, have been reduced to mostly two lane streets. These arteries are so badly clogged that too often even emergency vehicles find themselves at a standstill. I regularly observe fire engines and ambulances stuck in traffic, blaring away for several minutes, unable to move an inch.

On any given school day right now, as many as 100 school buses line the streets of this neighborhood, many of them with idling engines keeping waiting drivers warm in the cold months and cool in the hot months, their exhaust fumes poisoning the air.

This is an ultra serious issue. But the Museum would like us to believe the problem can be easily mitigated by the simple, inexpensive and expedient signal changes and a widened crosswalk.

If this were true, why hasn't the MTA done these things already? Wider crosswalks and re-timed signals can't deal with the traffic we already have, let alone congestion problems during the years of construction and afterward. Are we just supposed to accept life-threatening delays as a normal part of life?

I implore you to reject the application for this ill-conceived project, which expects the UWS community to sacrifice its health and general well-being in exchange for little more than an expanded entrance hall? That would be a shabby deal for the neighborhood and the Upper West Side in general. It would be unworthy of the Museum.

Name [Last Name] 175 U.79 St.

Telephone: (212) 360-3492 Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

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[First Name] [Last Name]

[Address]

370 Columbus Are 5L NYC 10024

Telephone: (212) 360-3492 Fax: (212) 360-3453

Email: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

June 23, 2017

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Thank you. Sincerely,

63 W. 875T. APT. 4 NEWYORK, N.Y. 10024

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L9		
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22	The Chair	
23		
24	BILL CASTRO,	
25	The Moderator	

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#### PROCEEDINGS

MS. COBB KONON: All right.

4 We're going to get started.

Good evening, everyone and welcome to the public hearing on the Draft
Environmental Impact Statement for the American
Museum of Natural History, Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education and Innovation.

My name is Alyssa Cobb Konon and I'm the Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Development at New York City Parks.

I'll be tonight's Chair, representing New York City Parks. We are serving as the lead agency for the environmental review of this project.

Manhattan Borough Commissioner,
Bill Castro, is joining me tonight as the Hearing
Moderator.

The time is now 6:06 and today's public hearing is being held on June 15th, 2017 at the American Museum of Natural History, Lefrak Theater, Columbus Avenue and West 79th Street, New York, New York.

Notice of this public hearing was

1

2 published in:

The Westside Spirit Westsider;

4 and,

5 The New York Daily News on May

6 18th, 2017;

7 The New York City Record on May

8 | 22nd, 2017; and,

9 The New York State Department of

10 Environmental Conservation's Environmental Notice

11 Bulletin on May 24th, 2017;

The May 18th online publication

of the notice in the New York Daily News contained

14 a typographical error in the website address for

15 the Parks Department Gilder Center web page. The

16 error was corrected on May 19th.

17 New York City Parks is

18 undertaking an environmental review for the

19 proposed Gilder Center project to be located on a

20 super block bounded by West 81st Street, West 77th

21 Street, Central Park West and Columbus Avenue in

22 the Upper West Side of Manhattan within the

23 Theodore Roosevelt Park.

24 In accordance with Executive

25 Order 91, as amended in 1977, as modified by the

rules of procedure for the City Environmental Quality Review in 1991, New York City Parks has assumed lead agency status for the environmental review.

6 Let me briefly describe our 7 process.

The first step in an environmental review is the preparation of an Environmental Assessment Statement, also known as an EAS.

After reviewing the EAS, we issued a Positive Declaration determining that, because of the potential for certain adverse impacts from the overall project, a more detailed analysis should be conducted, known as an Environmental Impact Statement or EIS.

The first step of an EIS process was the completion of a scope of work that is a description of what aspects of the project will be analyzed and how.

Comments on the Draft Scope of Work were received at a public meeting on April 6th, 2016 and further written comments were accepted through April 20th, 2016.

The Final Scope of Work was issued on April 25th, 2017 and included a summary of comments received and responses to those comments.

The Draft EIS was issued on May 18th, 2017. The purpose of the EIS is to disclose and discuss potential significant adverse environmental impacts at a level of detail sufficient to enable New York City Parks and other involved agencies to make informed decisions about those impacts and how to avoid or mitigate those impacts to the maximum extent practicable.

The EIS Positive Declaration

Draft and Final Scope of Work, and the Draft EIS

are posted on the New York City Park's website for
the Gilder Center project.

The purpose of the public hearing is to solicit comments on the Draft EIS before it's finalized.

We have a court stenographer documenting tonight's proceedings so we will have a record of the comments made tonight.

Comments may also be submitted in writing until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 26th, 2017

to: Owen Wells, Director of Environmental Review,New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

His contact information is

available on our website on the Gilder Center page

but I will also recite it now for the record.

Comments may be submitted to Owen by mail at: The Arsenal, Central Park, 830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401, New York, New York 10065 or by FAX: 212-360-3453, or by e-mail which is: owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov.

Your comments tonight and those submitted in writing by the deadline will all become part of the record for the Environmental Review process. We will not be answering questions or responding to comments tonight. However, following the close of the comment period, a Final EIS will be prepared, which will contain a summary of the comments received on the Draft and written responses to their comments.

We have asked the Museum to give a brief description of the proposed project and we've also asked AKRF, the environmental consultants who prepared the Draft EIS, to briefly describe the Draft EIS.

After those brief presentations, we will explain the procedures for this public hearing and then hear your comments. Attendees should sign in on an attendance sheet available at the entrance if you have not already done so.

Please clearly print your name, address and affiliation. If you wish to speak tonight, you must also fill out a speaker request card at the back of the room.

Just to be clear, this isn't a Town Hall or a Q&A session about the project generally. It is an official public hearing to gather comments on the record about a specific aspect of the project review, that is, the issues and analysis presented in the Draft EIS for the project.

I'd now like to invite Ann Siegel to give a brief description of the proposed project.

(PowerPoint.)

MS. SIEGEL: Thank you.

And good evening.

My name is Ann Siegel. I'm the

Senior Vice President for Operations and Capital

Programs at the American Museum of Natural History.

Because we've made a number of public presentations throughout the Gilder Center review process, many of you are already familiar with the architectural design of the Gilder Center.

The Center will inspire discovery and solve a host of circulation and overcrowding issues by creating visual openings and physical access through continuous and integrated science exhibition and education spaces.

Tonight, I want to turn to the program's plan for these spaces and briefly walk you through some of them.

We are continuing the design process for interior space, but I will show a few images to give you an understanding of what we're planning to achieve with this project.

The Gilder Center is organized around a central exhibition hall. From the hall are five-story collections core that will display working sections of the Museum's collections with featured specimens and artifacts on display and areas where working scientists and visiting scholars will carry out research.

On the first floor, the collections core will house the Museum's butterfly collection, one of the largest in the world.

The butterfly collection will be located opposite the new insectarium. Insects are an extraordinarily abundant and complex critical vector for both environmental sustainability and human health and disease. A better understanding of these animals is fundamental to navigating some of our society's most challenging issues.

The insectarium will be a new kind of interactive exhibition and learning space where students and other visitors can use scientific tools to observe insects and gather data.

The Museum's butterfly vivarium will be relocated to the Gilder Center on the floor directly above the insectarium.

The Museum's educational programs reach all ages from young children to middle and high school students to adults and teachers. The proposed project will be the most comprehensive addition and modernization of our educational spaces since 1928.

We need spaces and equipment to teach to the next generation science standards and to provide immersive hands on and visual learning experiences that use technology and interactive learning to relay complex scientific concepts.

By creating adjacencies among classrooms, exhibits, collections and library resources, education space would be placed in the context of current scientific practice, reinforcing intellectual links among different scientific disciplines.

Chapter 1 of the Draft EIS describes the other program elements of the Gilder Center, which include new research and collection space for our Ichthyology Department and opening up of our research library, and an immersive theater in which visitors can experience and explore emerging areas of science.

To serve the increased number of visitors, the Gilder Center will also include restaurant and retail areas.

Finally, during the scoping process there were questions about the lower level of the Gilder Center. The new below-grade loading

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and service area will replace our existing service yard, which is to be located in the footprint of the new building.

The existing service driveway

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from Columbus Avenue and 78th Street will be reconfigured to provide a straight entry into the lower level, which will extend beyond the footprinted grade by a little over 2,000 square feet. This has been reduced from the original plan with the goal of preserving the two trees that you

The new service area would be shielded from the park and nearby residences due to its enclosed location in the lower level of the new building, reducing noise from operations.

can see here in front of the building.

Thank you for coming tonight to provide your comments.

Parks has asked AKRF to do a brief overview of the Draft EIS. So Linh Do is going to join us to do that.

Linh Do, AKRF

MS. DO: Good evening.

My name is Linh Do. I'm a Senior

25 Vice President at AKRF.

AKRF is the lead consultant for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement, also known as an EIS.

The public hearing on the Draft EIS is one step in the City Environmental Quality Review process known as CEQR.

The Draft EIS was prepared in conformance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act, its implementing regulations and with CEQR, City Environmental Quality Review, which takes into account the special circumstances of New York City's urban environment.

The City's CEQR Technical Manual provides guidance for the content, methodologies and criteria applied in an EIS.

CEQR is a disclosure process. It is not an approval process in and of itself.

The EIS discloses and discusses the potential of the proposed project to result in significant adverse impacts and considers feasible mitigation measures and alternatives to the proposed action. This information is then used by the involved agencies in their decision making.

you are aware that the public has an important role in the process - to provide comments and input to the lead agency.

The Draft EIS describes the proposed project and the need for the proposed project with sufficient information to provide a basis for the technical analyses. Then, in each of the technical analysis areas defined in the Final Scope of Work, the EIS considers the effects of the proposed project on its environmental setting after the project is complete and operational.

Construction of the Gilder Center is expected to take approximately three years. So the analysis year of the Draft EIS is 2021, the first year of operations after the project is complete.

Construction of the Gilder Center is to determine the impacts of the proposed project, the Draft EIS must consider the environmental setting in 2021 and compare the incremental differences and conditions in that the future analysis year with and without the proposed project.

Thus, most chapters of the EIS

contain at least four parts:

- A description of existing
   conditions.
  - 2. A prediction of the future without the project for the year that it would be complete and operational, which takes into account other changes expected to occur in the study area, as well as a background growth factor.
  - 3. A prediction of future with the project for the year it would be completed and operational, which adds the potential impacts of the project to the future condition; and,
  - 4. A description of the impacts in the future with the project that would not exist in the future without the project, following the guidelines of the CEQR Technical Manual and the relevant State and City rules and regulations.

Where significant adverse impacts are identified, the Draft EIS then examines the feasibility of potential mitigation measures.

The DEIS also considers a range of alternatives to the proposed project that might reduce or avoid one or more of the potential impacts.

1 2 While New York City Parks serves 3 as the lead agency for the preparation of this 4 DEIS, their review of the document was supported by 5 other expert City agencies, including: New York City Department of 6 7 Transportation; and, 8 New York City Department of 9 Environmental Protection, among others. As I mentioned, the Draft EIS 10 follows the guidance of the CEQR Technical Manual 11 in analyzing the technical areas identified in the 12 13 scoping process. The areas of study are listed on the slide. They include: 14 15 Land use, zoning and public policy; 16 17 Open space; 18 Shadows; Historic and cultural resources; 19 20 Urban design and visual 21 resources; 22 Natural resources; 23 Hazardous materials; 24 Transportation;

Air quality;

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2 Greenhouse gas emissions;

Noise;

4 Public health;

Neighborhood character;

6 Construction alternatives; and,

Growth-inducing aspects of the

8 project.

Consistent with the Final Scope of Work, there are specific study areas for the various categories of assessment.

The study areas are a function of the character of the topic being considered.

Each chapter begins by describing the principal conclusions of the analysis and, in particular, topics considered in that chapter.

For the Gilder Center, the Draft EIS identifies significant adverse impacts in three areas of study; transportation, historic and cultural resources and construction.

For transportation:

One intersection would be

impacted during the weekday p.m. peak hour:

Central Park West at 81st Street.

Three intersections would be

1 2 impacted during the Saturday peak hour: 3 Central Park West and 81st 4 Street; 5 Central Park West and 77th 6 Street; and, 7 Columbus Avenue at 77th Street. 8 And a pedestrian impact was also 9 identified at one crosswalk during the Saturday peak hour: 10 Columbus Avenue and 81st Street. 11 12 These significant, adverse 13 traffic and pedestrian impacts could be fully mitigated with standard mitigation measures 14 15 including signal re-timings and crosswalk 16 widenings. For historic resources: 17 18 The impact is due to the demolition of --19 20 (Audience participation.) 21 MS. DO: -- of Building 15, a 22 contributing building in the Museum complex, which 23 is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic places. 24

Partial mitigation of the impact

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2 is described in the Draft EIS and includes among
3 other things:

Respecting the historic museum context in the height of the materials of the Gilder Center design, even while it incorporates a contemporary architectural approach.

Consultation with the New York State Historic Preservation office regarding the design.

Submission of the State

Historic -- to the State Historic Preservation

office of a development history narrative of the

Museum and documentation of Building 15, per the

Historic Preservation office's recordation of

historic structure standards; and,

Preparation/implementation of a construction protection plan.

19 For construction:

One construction period traffic impact was identified at:

Columbus Avenue and 81st Street during the weekday p.m. construction period.

24 This impact could be mitigated 25 with signal re-timings.

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2 Construction noise impacts were 3 also identified --

4 (Audience participation.)

MS. DO: -- at two residential

6 buildings. The two buildings are:

101 West 79th Street; and,

118 West 79th Street.

Mitigation for this impact could include receptor noise reduction measures. However, between Draft EIS and the Final EIS, further noise reduction measures will be considered and evaluated with the goal of reducing and eliminating the potential for these temporary significant construction noise impacts.

Significant adverse impacts are not identified for the other areas of analysis.

That concludes my brief summary

19 of the Draft EIS.

(Applause.)

MS. DO: The public comment period will continue until June 26th, 2017.

As previously mentioned, we will not be responding to comments today. However, all comments will be considered in the preparation of

the Final EIS, which will include a new chapter that responds to the comments received tonight and to those submitted in writing to the Parks Department.

5 Department

Thank you for your attention.

(Applause.)

MS. COBB KONON: Thank you Ann

9 and Linh.

This is now the opportunity for you, the members of the public, to provide your input on issues and analyses presented in the Draft EIS for the project.

I'm going to quickly go over the procedures we'll use tonight to receive comments.

It's my job, and Commissioner

Castro's job, to ensure the comments you make on

the Draft EIS are received in an orderly fashion so

that the record will be an accurate reflection of

what is said.

Again, we have a court stenographer documenting tonight's proceedings.

If you wish to speak tonight and you haven't filled out a speaker request card, please do so now. They're available at the back of

2 the room.

Commissioner Castro and I will call on speakers in the following order:

Elected officials;

Their representatives;

Representatives from the local

Community Board; and,

Members of the public in the order in which they signed up to speak.

Each person who wishes to speak should fill out a speaker request card at the back of the room or you may do so now. And we will take people in the order that they sign up, calling names at a time to give subsequent speakers a heads up.

When we call your name, please come up to one of the microphones. If you're not ready to speak when it's your turn, your card will be placed at the end of the pack and you will be recalled at the end -- at that time.

I ask that you be courteous to your fellow participants and not interrupt while someone else is speaking. Everyone who wishes to speak will be given an opportunity to do so.

As noted earlier, written comments receive equal consideration with the oral comments we receive tonight and we will not be answering questions or responding to comments tonight.

However, the Final EIS will reflect consideration of all substantive comments received and will contain responses to those comments.

Given the size of the audience and to provide an orderly and meaningful opportunity for people to speak, we ask that each of you limit your verbal comments to no more than three minutes and try not to repeat what others have said. We will signal when you have 30 seconds left in your time slot.

When you come up to the microphone, please state your name and help the stenographer out by spelling it if it may be a bit difficult. If you're speaking on behalf of someone else or some group, please identify who you are.

Please speak clearly so that an accurate record of your comments can be made.

When your three minutes have

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finished, please conclude your remarks.

Please remember that you have
until Monday, June 26th, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. to
submit any additional comments in writing. We will
also accept written copies of hearing remarks if
you would like to give them to us after you have
spoken this evening.

Owen Wells is in the front row -- he just raised his hand, and will collect those.

11 Commissioner Castro and I will
12 now call upon any elected officials who wish to
13 speak, followed by any elected official

14 representatives.

A VOICE: There's no elected

16 officials.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. COBB KONON: Okay.

19 So thank you.

20 The next -- are there any

21 representatives from the Community Board who would

22 like to speak at this time?

23 (Applause.)

24 (Discussion off the record.)

MS. SEMER: All right.

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While we're lining up, I'm

3 Roberta Semer. I'm Chair of Community Board 7.

We have a few speakers tonight.

I'll introduce each of them.

We -- this is -- these are

7 comments we have -- we will be submitting a very

8 detailed report before the final date of June 26th.

9 So we -- we have looked at the

10 DEIS very carefully. We have a lot of questions and

11 concerns and we're going to start with Page Cowley,

12 who is Co-Chair of our Land Use Committee.

MS. COWLEY: Thank you, Roberta.

14 Can you hear me?

MS. SEMER: Yes.

MS. COWLEY: Page Cowley, Land

17 Use.

We have ten specific comments.

19 I'm only going to share with you this evening our

20 favorite four.

21 The first one is:

Maps and diagrams are needed that

23 show the existing footprint in relation to the new

addition. At present only the new addition is

25 shown.

No. 6, regarding Section E, future without proposed project needs to demonstrate the inability to contain the proposed uses within the existing building.

Please provide a comparative

chart to show that the existing space uses and those new spaces to be provided, demonstrate that the complex cannot be modified or improved internally.

Will there be adaptive reuse projects --

13 (Applause.)

MS. COWLEY: -- and building additions to existing and new cultural institutions within the study area?

Question 8. What is the square footage of the building being removed and the additional open space to be incorporated into the new building to demonstrate the efficient use of land for this project?

And question 10, what are the adverse impacts to the existing facility, and stresses on the neighborhood services and infrastructure during construction and after the

1 2 Gilder Center is open, specifically to the 3 following: To the existing building. 1. 2. To the loss of open space. 5 6 Clarify what the -- not only the 11,600 square feet represents but the entire 7 8 project. 9 C. The extent of change to the 10 park; and, The increase of visitor 11 D. 12 population and stresses on the neighborhood services and infrastructure. 13

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

MS. SEMER: Next is Andrew

Albert, who is Co-Chair of Transportation and will be speaking on transportation issue.

MR. ALBERT: Thanks, Roberta.

There's several transportation

21 issues we'd like to bring to your attention.

Four intersections, as was

23 mentioned, are likely to be heavily impacted:

24 81st and Central Park West;

25 81st and Columbus;

77th and Central Park West; and,77th and Columbus.

We feel it imperative that the study area be expanded north to 83rd Street with the -- with the impact on 81st and Central Park West, the next available westbound street vehicles will have if 81st and Central Park West is clogged, is West 83rd Street.

So we feel, since you went south of the perimeter two blocks, you must go north of the perimeter at least two blocks.

(Applause.)

MR. ALBERT: We think you have to pay special attention to the intersection of 81st and Columbus. AKRF has previously, and tonight, said that there are impacts at that intersection. We would love to know what directions the impacts they're referring to is, is it southbound cars on Columbus interacting with crossings of pedestrians east, west and cyclists going south on Columbus?

We need to know what AKRF is

exactly referring to when they mentioned that intersection being problematic.

We also think you should include

an analysis of bike ridership to the Museum, including Citibikes; bike usage is expanding and we think that that has to be reflected in the eventual plan that the Museum has.

We -- we think that the existing Columbus Avenue bike lane must be maintained during construction.

Pedestrian access at 79th and Columbus must be maintained during construction.

And we think there has to be a really much better bus plan. It's great that you've converted a lot of groups to mass transit and we think that's a great trend we would like to see. But the bus plan has to be established and we can't have them using the lane that the M79 uses and just circling the area looking for bus parking. It is imperative that we do something about the buses.

We think pedestrian safety is extremely important. They'll be trucks coming in and out of this site. 79th and Columbus is obviously the main place that they're going to be impacts on pedestrians and we think having, along with DOT, the NYPD have traffic enforcement personnel both during construction and after the

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first few weeks at the end of construction and the opening of the Gilder Center is imperative to a smooth, safe operation.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. SEMER: Next is Tina Branhan,

8 who will speak on construction.

9 MS. BRANHAN: Thank you,

10 Roberta.

We ask that the -- there be an explanation of the membership of the construction working group, how often the group will be meeting and explain plans to respond to community concerns and problems that arise.

We ask that you make public safety your number one priority by ensuring that the sidewalk shed is well lit and that there's helpful signage.

We ask that you develop a well thought out plan for trucks, including where they originate, their route to and from the site and any plans to store them offsite.

We ask that you promote and incentivize workers to use mass transit.

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We ask that you provide clarification on times that Columbus Avenue will be shut down, as well as where construction workers will be gathering before the 7:00 a.m. start.

We also ask that you ensure that there is sufficient onsite garbage containers for construction workers; and,

Finally provide adequate dust and noise measuring and controls, as well as backup alarms on trucks.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

MS. SEMER: And Mark Diller, who
is our former Chair and now is Co-Secretary, will
be speaking about mitigations.

MR. DILLER: Thank you.

That's Diller, D-i-l-l-e-r.

The mitigation sections will be broken into two areas; one for mitigation with respect to the project as it is anticipated to go forward, and the other with respect to during

23 construction mitigations.

With respect to actually both of those in transportation and to follow on to my

colleague Andrew's comments, the DEIS fails to assess -- and fails to assess traffic and transportation impacts as an upstream and downstream consequence.

It treats four intersections in isolation without ever contemplating the fact that a truck or car that is stuck in a bottleneck at West 81st Street and Central Park West, one of our most dangerous intersections according to our Transportation Committee, is also likely to be the same truck or car stuck at 81st Street and Columbus Avenue making the turn -- because that's the only place you can go, or going in the opposite direction. And if it makes the turn onto Columbus, it's also going to be the same truck or car stuck at 77th, the three impacted intersections.

There's much more to this
than just a series of intersections. The
transportation -- the as-built proposal
transportation mitigation fails to take into
account any of the changes that have recently been
made by the Department of Transportation with
respect to the implementation of the SBS service on
the M79 bus route and, in particular, the series of

arguably dangerous left-hand turns that would be required to go from the layover position on 81st Street and Central Park West to the pick-up site where the children would be retrieved.

The pedestrian remediation that is included in the mitigation section concerns West 81st Street and Columbus Avenue but fails to mitigate or take into account that the pedestrians coming from there, likely are coming from Broadway and the subway across two blocks of very narrow sidewalks. And there's no mitigation planned to direct or channelize folks to my block, the 79th Street block, which is a wider sidewalk and more appropriate for pedestrian use than the smaller size streets that surround it.

With respect to mitigation, my colleague also touched on the need for a queuing or layover area for construction trucks. The notion that they can be adequately mitigated simply by a series of walkie-talkies is not realistic.

There are concerns about aspects of the DEIS which lay over to a future analysis what to do about hazardous materials or historic fabric that are required to have specific

1 2 mitigations. And that should be part of the public 3 process, not something that is disclosed to be part of the public process as a coming attraction. So I -- so the --5 6 (Applause.) MR. DILLER: 7 I only got ten 8 seconds. 9 So the concern is that the -- the ability for the lead agency to -- to accept as 10 final an EIS that fails to address all of these 11 12 issues is very, very troubling. 13 Thank you very much. 14 (Applause.) 15 MS. SEMER: Thank you so much. We are -- we will be preparing a 16 more extensive document with more concerns and 17 18 members of the Community Board are here in the audience and we will be taking notes and listening 19 20 to what members of the community have to say. 21 (Applause.) 22 MS. COBB KONON: Thank you, 23 Community Board 7. We're going to start the public 24

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comment now.

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I'm going to, again, call you up three at a time, or Commissioner Castro will call you up three at a time.

Please come up to the microphone so that you're prepared for your time as well.

The first three here are:

Sean Khorsandi -- and I apologize in advance for any mispronunciations of names;

Susan -- I'm sorry, it looks like

11 Nick, perhaps.

MS. NIAL: Nial.

MS. COBB KONON: Nial.

14 Thank you.

15 And Betty Lerner.

16 MR. KHORSANDI: Thank you.

17 Sean Khorsandi for Landmark West.

18 Landmark West has testified

19 previously on this project, including at the

20 scoping session in April of '16, noting that the

21 | Statement of Significant Effect recognizes, "That

22 the proposed project may have a significant impact

23 on the quality of human environment."

24 In reviewing the 20 primary

25 sections outlined in the Draft EIS, it's clear that

the applicant-driven program stands paramount to any lens of evaluation.

Moreover, the applicant expects the City and the public to accept its self-serving analysis of future impacts, or no impact, but refuses to put forth a comprehensive master plan to guide its growth. The refusal to do so signals the Museum's intention to continue expanding into the Park.

The foresight we seek may have prevented the proposed demolition of the Western Pavilion, a 16-year old facility, which is among the casualties before you. The following comments are excerpted directly from the Draft.

Regarding land use:

"The proposed project would result in the reduction of available open space of approximately .27 acres, while adverse this loss would not result in a significant adverse impact."

Regarding open space:

The proposed project would result in a reduction of available space, while adverse this would not result in a significant adverse impact.

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2 Regarding shadows:

The analysis found that the

proposed project would cast new shadows on Theodore

Roosevelt Park in all seasons.

The proposed project would not result in any adverse shadow impacts.

(Laughter.)

9 MR. KHORSANDI: Regarding

10 historic and cultural resources:

11 The proposed project, which is

12 tearing down three buildings, would not be

anticipated to have any significant adverse impacts

14 and so on.

One must question the report

16 comprised of these alternative facts for an

17 alternative reality.

18 (Laughter.)

MR. KHORSANDI: The schizophrenic

20 findings --

21 (Applause)

MR. KHORSANDI: -- finds adverse

23 impacts and repeatedly dismiss them in the same

24 breath.

25 Furthermore, the report fails to

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2 address cumulative impacts.

For all its examination, the DEIS does not assess the Museum's program, which the applicant claims is the very impetus driving the process. The DEIS accepts it.

In April we urged the Parks

Department in our letter, the Gilder Center aside,
now is the time when the Museum should be asked to
consider offsite alternatives for future expansion
as a means of mitigation.

(Applause.)

MR. KHORSANDI: Any plans which does not establish limits for future expansion into Theodore Roosevelt Park is fundamentally inappropriate.

After reading AKRF's findings, we stand by that position.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

MS. NIAL: Susan Nial, N-i-a-l.

I am a member of the Landmark

23 West Board but I am speaking for myself.

One of the key reasons that this document was prepared is, and I quote, "to provide

sufficient detail to allow your department to make an analysis of the adverse impacts upon the environment."

I would argue to you that, in fact, this document does not do that.

I would suggest that this document does not do that because it was paid for by the applicant.

10 (Applause.)

MS. NIAL: From my experience as an attorney, I had seen many such documents and it is rare that a consultant paid for by an applicant finds substantial adverse impact.

(Laughter.)

16 (Applause.)

MS. NIAL: So I would suggest to you, as the officials here from the department that are -- that are mandated to assess this project, that you do not have before you a document that will allow you to do that.

You're failure to do an independent investigation of the representations made in this document will mean that you are failing to do your jobs.

44 1 2 (Audience participation.) 3 MS. NIAL: One more point that I 4 would like to make. The document suggests that 750,000 more people will come every year. 5 That's 6 750,000 more people will come every year. And yet 7 the suggestion is there will be no substantial 8 adverse impact on the environment in this 9 community. That, I suggest to you, is 10 ludicrous. 11 12 (Applause.) 13 MS. NIAL: So I would suggest to you, it is your responsibility not to accept this 14 15 document but rather to do an independent 16 investigation. 17 Thank you. 18 (Applause.) (Audience participation.) 19 20 MS. COBB KONON: Go ahead. 21 MS. LERNER: My name is Betty 22 Lerner. I'm a member of the Community United to Save Teddy Roosevelt Park. 23

I've been a member of the Museum

I lived, raised my family and taught

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for decades.

within a block of this Museum. We've benefited from all your programming. I love Teddy Roosevelt Park just as much.

Central Park is close by. It is a very different atmosphere with its millions of visitors. Teddy Roosevelt Park is a living classroom. By the way, I'm a teacher.

There are over 12 schools and about 6,000 students within a one to two-block radius of this park. It's a very special place.

This -- that it's convenient to get in, quiet so teachers can explain things and it's a calm atmosphere that allows students to work in small groups without distractions. It is used throughout the school year.

Outside of the City, schools have large fields. We have small cement yards. Classes come to write poetry, do art. Others, like myself, to study the plants and tiny insects. It's essential that children experience how living things interact in their environment through the different seasons. It's a lot better than looking at them in a glass case.

On very hot afternoons, my

students brought their books and did quiet independent reading under the large beautiful canopy.

When they built the Philharmonic Hall, it's name has been changed several times, the plan was to tear down Carnegie Hall. After all, the orchestra had moved. There were large protests to save it. Thank goodness we won. The building remains a prize concert venue.

Some justify taking a large swath of our small park since Central Park is so close.

It makes as little sense as it did with the Carnegie Hall plan.

In this densely populated area that is constantly adding more huge apartment buildings, there is not enough quiet. I repeat, quiet, green areas. Broadway has plants but would you choose to read on the benches that are set up? Having millions of visitors traipse through the Teddy Roosevelt Park destroys the calm atmosphere that everyone needs for mental and physical well being.

Some people have the luxury of country homes to unwind and rejuvenate. Others,

like myself, go to this peaceful park. We need to protect the park and all that we have. We don't get more parks.

This Museum occupies New York

City parkland. It's four blocks wide and one avenue

block in depth.

Jeanne Gang, your architect,

clearly stated at a public meeting that she could

meet the goals of your expansion within your

existing footprints. To sacrifice huge,

magnificent, over 100-year trees, our wonderful and

carefully designed and maintained -- out of space

to get a better hallway is hard to fathom, let alone support.

How could the American Museum of Natural History even consider this destruction?

18 (Applause.)

19 (Audience participation.)

MR. CASTRO: The next -- is this

21 thing on?

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The next three people -- and I
apologize again if we don't pronounce your last
name correctly.

Paula Glatzel;

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2 Jerrold Alpern; and,

Maria Fernandez.

4 That was easy.

MS. GLATZER: Hi. I'm Paula

6 Glatzer, G-l-a-t-z-e-r.

I live in the neighborhood but not right by. And this feels like the Emperor's New Clothes. The Museum wants to expand but if you're our City officials, you have to save us from that expansion.

12 (Audience participation.)

13 (Applause.)

MS. GLATZER: I don't think any

15 ordinary citizen wants it.

The Met wants to expand into

17 Central Park.

18 MOMA has ruined Midtown.

19 People want the parkland. When

20 you go to the Museum of Natural History, we all

21 have with our children, with our grandchildren,

22 with our school classes. You can only see a

23 fraction of it. And even if you go fairly

regularly, there's just so much you can see.

This is just an expansion of this

Museum and it's not appropriate here.

And this is going to sound nasty but if Richard Gilder really wants a name on a building, which is what it sounds like, it should be built and this is a NIMBY but it should be built where it's needed --

(Audience participation.)

(Applause.)

MS. GLATZER: -- in a place -- and I know this is about the Environmental Impact so I'll just say it. I live on 78th Street, which nobody has mentioned and I cross it almost every day going from like towards the river and towards Central Park. It's one of the most dangerous crossings in the world and part of it is because the Museum had -- does nothing about the trucks swerving into the driveway there. And that's one little place. But try crossing it with the bike lane and you really take your life in your hand.

And the other thing is, on any given day, I don't know with the new bus thing with any changes but walk along 77th Street and the buses are lined up and they're all powered and one driver is sitting there, I guess to get the air

conditioning or listening to music, and they're going to quadruple that?

I don't think that's the main point. I think that the parkland there is for everybody and as somebody said, it is so needed after you do the Museum or the Planetarium. And you can't do all of it. You need -- every visitor needs the park. Nobody needs an enlarged Museum.

(Applause.)

MR. ALPERN: I'm Jerrold,

J-e-r-r-o-l-d, Alpern, a native upper westsider and since 2008, a Museum tour quide.

I grew up on West 82nd Street in the 1940s, learned to ride a bike in Manhattan Square, as it then was, and has returned since.

I have seen the transformation of eroded, dusty bare earth into a verdant landscape, thanks to the partnership of the Museum, the Parks Department and the Friends of Roosevelt Park.

The proposed new Gilder Center will be an appropriate and marvelous addition to the Museum, --

(Audience participation.)

MR. ALPERN: -- the park and the

entire upper westside.

The three existing entrances have each represented the best of the architecture of their times. The new one on Columbus Avenue continues that tradition.

The present entrance there is a pallid echo of the one on 81st Street. But the new facade suitably balances the Roosevelt Memorial on the opposite side, thanks to the use of matching granite from the same quarry.

It harmonizes well with the adjacent buildings and its energetic sculptural form proclaims the strength and endurance of the institution.

At the same time, the building is welcoming to visitors and neighbors alike, drawing them inside and involving them immediately in the magic, wonder and excitement of both the contents and the work of the Museum.

The multi-level atrium will highlight its scientific and educational missions, while providing a grand, new entrance space to match the classic Roosevelt Rotunda on Central Park West.

From 81st Street, what is now a hodgepodge view of an interior architectural junkyard, will become a unified, powerful presence embodying the energy and vitality of both the Museum and the entire neighborhood.

For local residents and casual passersby alike, the most important improvement may lie in the enhancement of the enjoyment of the park, whether strolling, relaxing, playing or simply enjoying the augmented tranquility of the surroundings.

(Audience participation)

MR. CASTRO: Quiet, please.

15 Quiet.

MR. ALPERN: The Museum has listened to the concerns of its neighbors and has significantly improved the design since its first submission, especially in the reduced footprint of the structure and the enhanced layout of the trees, paths and green areas.

For 140 years the American Museum of Natural History has been an integral part of the park in which it stands. Throughout its growth it has proved to be a wise steward and good friend to

those who live nearby, as well as those who only
visit it.

The new entrance building will carry this forward into the remainder of the 21st century and well beyond.

Thank you.

(Audience participation.)

MS. COBB KONON: Just a reminder for everybody, be courteous to each of your fellow speakers.

Thank you.

MS. FERNANDEZ: Good evening.

My name is Maria Fernandez and I've been a resident of New York City, Manhattan, for my whole life and the Upper West Side for 40 some odd years.

I just want to give a little historical context to the interaction with the Parks Commissioner almost a year ago at the planting of the millionth tree in New York.

He was asked, would he meet with people in the community about their concerns about Teddy Roosevelt Park's reduction? And he said, it was a done deal a year ago, before hearing anything

2 from anyone.

I also want to address the fact that the -- I would like to ask if any plan is made to give the children that would come to the Museum, or is the Museum going to be closed during construction or are the people that are coming going to be given respirators while all the construction and reconstruction is going on within the Museum and outside?

(Applause.)

MS. FERNANDEZ: It's absurd. All the particulate matter. I'm a registered nurse and I've seen what respiratory diseases can do to people and they're on the rise.

This Museum building is not going to help our health at all.

The Museum has a cafeteria that doesn't recycle its plastic. I've spoken to the workers in the cafeteria. They have two poorly marked bins, not even a sign that's up. The rest of the garbage cans don't have any recycling. All that has been thrown out. They only recycle cardboard.

How are we to trust them?

The Draft of the Environmental

Impact Statement is wide ranging but seems to resolve every issue in the Museum's favor. From loss of parkland to increased congestion, it concludes there is no significant adverse impact.

What's the missing analysis?

Mass of the Gilder Center.

We believe that the massive structure and it's monumental entrance lobby will harm the tone and the texture of our small park. In the Draft, every alternative to the plan was rejected because it supposedly fails to meet the Museum's needs.

However, we don't think the Museum addressed our proposal. We urge the Museum to solve its interior circulation problems with a less imposing structure to reduce the shadows cast by a 115-foot high, 245,000 gross square-foot structure and make the entrance less of a magnet for throngs of visitors, especially on busy days.

Having studied proposed floor plans, we are confident that architects could easily meet that objective. Unfortunately, architectural imagination has given way to inflated institutional imperatives. We sadly wonder to what

extent the huge lobby reflects the desire to accommodate fundraising parties and increase restaurant and gift shop business --

(Applause.)

MS. THOMAS: -- all in the name of science, technology, engineering and math.

Park restoration:

Reconfigured spaces for gathering and the opening of adjacent fenced-off lawn areas under managed public access plan are attractive in principle. However, day-to-day management is imperative to preserve -- to prevent damage, for example after a heavy rain.

In an era of limited budgets, there is the assurance -- where is the assurance that the Museum and the Parks Department would provide sufficient resources to develop and sustain both the redesigned area and the accessible lawn space?

If the current maintenance of the park is a harbinger of what will be, the future is not promising.

24 (Applause.)

(Audience participation.)

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MR. FLESCH: I'm Ronald Flesch.

I'm also a member of the

4 Defenders Board of Directors. I'm an architect by

5 profession.

I have three points:

7 Attendance:

The Draft EIS juggles the various estimates, failing to provide a clear picture of how the public will use the 79th Street entrance in the years ahead.

As far as we can tell, the Museum estimates that more than one million visitors annually will use the entrance, roughly double today's flow.

What is the source of these

17 estimates?

The Museum mentions its own projections and the vague experience of other institutions.

21 What methodology was used to

22 reach the figures?

What comparable projects were

24 examined?

We are left to guess.

Furthermore, the estimating does not go past 2021. It's going to three of those years to build the Gilder Center. To what extent will it increase New York City tourism and construction of more Upper West Side condos affect attendance and park use beyond the next four years? The questions bear on congestion and how well the park can serve as a neighborhood oasis. 

Remember, too, that when thousands of visitors use this 79th Street entrance, unlike other Museum entrances, they beat a footpath -- excuse me, they beat a footpath through our neighborhood affecting quality of life.

The Museum's 36-month plan raises an array of issues from noise abatement to removal of hazardous materials. Neighborhood groups must be involved in monitoring construction.

Construction plan.

The Defenders are especially concerned about safeguarding trees as large trucks move through the site. The Museum promises protection but questions remain.

For example, to what extent would

2 limbs be removed to make way for trucks affecting 3 tree configuration?

Meanwhile, where will scores of
construction workers park in an already crowded
neighborhood; and

7 Where will any troublesome school

8 buses park?

9 The concerns go on and on and on.

10 The human factor.

11 The Draft EIS relies on a

12 bureaucratic manual and low quantitative standards

13 to measure significant adverse impact. However,

14 many of the neighborhood's concerns are

15 qualitative. For example, the yardstick of

16 parkland per 1,000 residents does not truly measure

17 the role of Teddy Roosevelt Park.

The Museum is unnecessarily

19 usurping part of the park to be used as a foyer for

20 its new front door.

21 In real life, this is a park

where the neighbors come to rest, play and renew

23 themselves.

24 Let's not forget the human

25 factor.

(Applause.)

MS. KARP: I'm Regina Karp from
Community United to Protect Teddy Roosevelt Park.
On the Upper West Side of
Manhattan is a very small park, Theodore Roosevel

Manhattan is a very small park, Theodore Roosevelt Park. On a quiet morning in springtime, it seems wonderfully at odds with the surrounding City. It pits green swath against the City's sharp angles, bringing life against brick and asphalt. Winding paths against the unbending streets of New York's remorseless grid into which it has been squeezed as if in a vise.

On such a favorable morning,

Theodore Roosevelt Park resembles nothing so much
as a small defenseless principality, surrounded by
a predatory empire, hostile to its spirit, covetous
of its green field yet miraculously surviving
nonetheless. A quiet -- a sort of municipal
Lichtenstein.

In the least poetical of cities, it makes the unexpected triumph of poetry over practicality and a certain vague sense -- vague sentiment over the hard calculations of interest and profit.

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Its mission is so singular, so beautiful and gallant and that is why so many New Yorkers, tourists and especially Upper West Siders have taken it to their hearts.

Let us hope that this little principality can survive in the center of the Empire City.

9 (Applause.)

MR. CASTRO: The next three

11 speakers:

12 Cary Goodman;

13 Lily Fernandez-Goodman; and,

14 Bob Weingarten.

MR. GOODMAN: That's Cary

16 Goodman, C-a-r-y, G-o-o-d-m-a-n.

Hi, everybody.

18 VOICES: Hi.

e-mail to Mayor de Blasio inviting him to join us
for this meeting. I thought it would be great for
him to get a sense of the beauty and the majesty of
Theodore Roosevelt Park. Quickly I received a
response from City Hall, he wouldn't be able to

25 attend.

This morning when I got up and read the paper that the Mayor was on the subway, I was kind of shocked. So I was -- well, okay, what was he doing? Guess where he was headed? To the Museum of Natural History. He was here yesterday. What was he doing here? He wasn't listening to the citizenry. He wasn't giving us a chance for us to tell him what we think about or what we care about with this project.

So I want to take this opportunity, Commissioner Castro, Deputy

Commissioner Konon, to share with you some of the things that I think about when I think about this project.

First of all, from the beginning we have said this is a toxic plan from every perspective.

(Applause.)

MR. GOODMAN: Let's take it from the hazardous waste perspective. They want to put up a building on top of a toxic waste site. That waste site has mercury, asbestos, chromium, beryllium, oil. You name it. It's in the report.

I do not trust the Museum or the

Parks Department, frankly, to safely remove that
toxicity.

I also read in the paper today that in Michigan in Flint, they arrested and charged with manslaughter the Director of the Department of Health, the Director of the Environmental Protection Agency --

(Audience participation.)

MR. GOODMAN: -- so I think
this -- the woman who was here who was an attorney,
made a great point. You guys need to do your job
and protect this park as the charter of New York
charges you.

So, no, I don't believe in the hazardous waste removal plans. It was laughable that we have these traffic mitigation plans. One second change in the traffic light would save a life. God willing. But not here.

Let's talk a little bit about the social toxicity of this plan. All around the City there are communities starving for cultural resources and institutions like this one.

(Applause.)

MR. GOODMAN: All over. How does

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it come that a community that is suffused with

Lincoln Center, this Museum, the Historical Society

and every which way another spot is going to get

another one with City money. I don't get it.

So Councilmember Rosenthal, I wish you were here. We're coming to make sure that this plan does not receive any more public funding. She put in for \$9 million more this year after hearing from a lot of people in this room and thousands more.

12 We don't want it.

Thank you.

14 (Audience participation.)

15 (Applause.)

MS. FERNANDEZ-GOODMAN: Hi. My

17 name is Lily Fernandez-Goodman.

I am a born and raised upper

westsider. I went to the public schools here and

I'm now a teacher.

I used to work across the street and we used to bring our kids to the Teddy Roosevelt Park. Because when you have little children and you're a teacher and you're responsible for 13, 22, 30 children, walking to

Central Park, which is now a Times Square with trees instead of buildings, is a little nerve racking.

You still want to provide your children with that opportunity to experience nature and really get a hands on feel for it, instead of dead butterflies in a case? You want to see a butterfly land on a tree, land on a -- on a flower.

(Applause.)

MS. FERNANDEZ-GOODMAN: Learn how it pollinates. Learn how it flies, how it migrates.

By building this center, you're taking that away from not only the children who were going to school around here but the elderly from everybody -- every age, from enjoying these trees and this air.

You talked about sustainability in your presentation. What's sustainable about this? You're not using sustainable energy. What?

I mean what are we, agreeing with President Trump that we should, you know, step out of the Paris agreement? You guys are the Natural History Museum.

As their shirts say, there's not going to be any more nature by the end -- for history for these guys. Nature will be history for them.

What? That's not right.

(Applause.)

MS. FERNANDEZ-GOODMAN: This -you look at this plan, you showed us all white
walls. That's not an exhibit hall. It's
ridiculous.

Taking a \$100 plus million of taxpayer money to put into this Museum is absurd. Take that money, you want to educate kids, put it into the public school system --

(Applause.)

MS. FERNANDEZ-GOODMAN: -- give it to kids who don't have books. Put it into the school system for kids who don't have chairs. Give them something that they can hold onto that they can learn.

You put this building up, I don't care you're leaving a couple of trees.

Thanks, guys.

Really? How do trees grow? What

20

2 do trees need to grow, guys?

3 VOICES: Sunlight.

4 MS. FERNANDEZ-GOODMAN: Sun,

5 oxygen, space, water. Where's the sunlight coming

6 from? You're building a building in front of it,

7 you might as well just cut those down too.

I mean, we were standing outside

9 of the Museum and there's squirrels running around.

10 I said, we might as well just kill them now, bring

11 them in and put them in a taxidermy box.

12 (Applause.)

MS. FERNANDEZ-GOODMAN: Learn

14 through this. I mean, come on people, really?

Not my Parks Department. That's

16 all I have to say.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. WEINGARTEN: My name is Bob

19 Weingarten and I'm with Community United to Save

Theodore Roosevelt Park.

21 No one disputes the greatness of

22 the Museum of Natural History but sometimes even

23 the greatest institutions go awry. I don't want to

24 focus on this unwanted building, the loss of

25 parkland, the increase of food and souvenir vendors

and garbage or the monster rats that will be unearthed during construction. The doormen on West 81st Street tell us that some of the rats that roam the streets during construction of the Rose Planetarium were as big as dogs.

What I do what to talk about is the way the whole Upper West Side, the most densely populated part of Manhattan, will be affected by vastly increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic as a result of this new world tourist destination.

The Draft Environmental Impact
Statement acknowledges that, "Because existing
traffic and pedestrian conditions are already
congested at times and susceptible to worsening in
significant levels, even small increases in traffic
and pedestrian levels could result in significant
adverse impacts."

This statement is so explosive that you think it alone could bring this ill-advised project to a halt.

Thanks to bike lanes and mid-street parking, not to mention constant truck unloading, the two major Upper West Side arteries, Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues, have been reduced

to mostly two-lane streets. These arteries are so badly clogged that too often emergency vehicles find themselves at a standstill.

Only the day before yesterday I stood on Amsterdam Avenue and 79th Street watching a fire engine stuck in traffic blaring away for several minutes unable to move an inch.

Consider that the 79th Street crosstown is already one of the worst, if not the worst, crosstown bus lines in Manhattan with delays routinely piling up two or three buses at a time followed by half-an-hour or more with no service at all. And that all traffic regularly slows to a crawl along Amsterdam, 79th and Columbus as the crosstown makes its jagged way around the Museum, adding to dangerous delays in emergency services.

This is already an ultra serious issue. But clearly this doesn't stop the Museum, which shrugs it off and has the chutzpah to try and make us believe the problem can be easily mitigated by the simple, inexpensive expedience of signal changes and a widened crosswalk.

(Audience participation.)
(Applause.)

2 MR. WEINGARTEN: What kind of rubes do they take us for?

If this were true, I might well ask why the MTA hasn't done these things already?

(Laughter.)

MR. WEINGARTEN: Wider crosswalks and re-timed signals can't deal with the traffic we already have. On any given school day right now, as many as 100 school buses line the streets of this neighborhood, many of them with idling engines keeping waiting drivers warm in the cold months and cool in the hot months. There are exhaust fumes poisoning the air. And this before even a shovel full has been dug to make way for an expansion that the AMNH estimates will attract how many more school children annually.

Surely, a goodly number. Because that is one of the purposes of the proposed Gilder Center; isn't it? To attract more children and more buses --

(Timer beeping)

MR. WEINGARTEN: I'll finish this

24 sentence or two.

More children and more buses to

the wonderful learning facilities offered by the

Museum. One can't help wondering where all those

buses will park and double park and idle their

engines.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CASTRO: The next three

8 speakers.

9 Lee Clauss;

10 Robert Grandt; and,

Judith Calamandre.

MR. CLAUSS: My name is Lee

13 Clauss. That's C-l-a-u-s-s. It's like Santa Claus

14 with two s's.

16

15 I'm with Community United to

Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park.

17 Despite my opposition to the

18 | Gilder Center, the American Museum of Natural

19 History is a very great museum, which operates

20 under five great guiding sustainability principles.

21 With them in mind, I'd like to

22 ask the following five questions:

First, how does the projected

24 Gilder Center reduce the Museum's negative impact

25 on the environment?

To do so is the first in the Museum's guiding principles.

2. How environmentally responsible practices are being used in the projected Gilder Center?

To encourage such practices is the second of the Museum's guiding principles.

- 3. As the Museum is about to take a terrible impact -- to make a terrible impact on this community and on nature by killing trees and converting grass land with concrete, how is it that in keeping with its third guiding principle, which is to develop opportunities to inform and encourage visitors and staff about sustainable practices and about lessening its own impact?
- 4. The Museum's fourth guiding principle is to advance awareness of environmental issues and the impact of personal and industrial behavior.

How is the Museum by its own personal and industrial behavior as it pushed forward with this vanity project advancing such awareness; and,

Finally, No. 5, how is the

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projected Gilder Center offering new opportunities to improve the Museum's "green practices."

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principles and the quotes are the Museum's own.

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Thank you.

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(Applause.)

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MR. GRANDT: My name is Robert Grandt, G-r-a-n-d-t. And I've been a teacher in

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the New York City School here for the past 48

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Okay, a number of points.

This is the fifth quiding

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First of all, a year ago this was

14 written in stone that the project, the building was

15 going to take three years. It was written in

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stone.

years.

Now I see on the Museum website,

it's now three to five years.

Well, I quarantee you it's not

20 going to be three to five years. With cost

21 overruns, work stoppages, God knows what, it could

22 easily be six years, seven, eight, nine, ten. But

ten years we can have a park that's not usable due

24 to construction.

Okay. What project is ever

finished on time? Look at the Second Avenue Subway, how long did that take?

Now, that means for at least nine or ten years here, what -- here we go. Okay. At least for nine or ten years, what we're going to have is construction trucks galore all over the place, cement mixers, noise beyond belief. You will not be able to use the park.

Right now it's a quiet oasis.

You go every after -- every day, you can read in the park. It's wonderful. No longer. They'll be so much noise going on and so many workers all over the place. Construction crews, rats galore as the earth is moved up, the rats come out. It's a given way here.

Okay. Next, we're told about 320 -- I've heard \$325 million that it will cost. Well, what about cost overruns? What item ever comes in on budget? Just look at the pentagon and what they do. And this could easily be seven, eight, \$900 million. Where is the extra money coming from?

I mean, what if seven years from now the project is half finished and we're in a

recession and there's no more money. Let's say we have that problem here.

Then we have a major entrance now right here on -- right here in the park right now we have a major entrance, which we don't have at the moment. You'll have a million people a year now walking through the park to get into the major entrance, including tons of school kids every day coming in.

Okay. Now the school kids are in, they come out. They come out of the Museum, letting lose, yelling, screaming. Where's the quiet? How are you going to read with all these school kids coming out?

And then it's -- they're going to want to eat. Well, they all take out their brown bags and your park, Theodore Roosevelt Park. becomes a de facto school cafeteria. Kids running amuck. Okay. All over the place. Not only making noise but increasing the rat population and the rodent population and all the wonderful things.

And for those kids who don't have brown bags, well, there are food trucks that are going to be lining up Columbus Avenue. No one has

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mentioned all the wonderful food trucks that you'll have along Columbus Avenue for people to buy food from, creating more rats and mice and everything else. Okay.

So the whole thing is going to be one major boundoggle.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

MS. COBB KONON: Go ahead,

11 please.

MS. CALAMANDRE: Hi. My name is

Judith Calamandre, a long-time resident of 79th

Street.

I don't walk a dog and I don't have a stroller but I am in the park every day.

And so I can tell you that what's been presented tonight it looks like these comments of the Impact Statement and the traffic mitigation have been drawn up by people who don't live here.

(Applause.)

MS. CALAMANDRE: I mean, where in the world can you make with a straight face any comments about 81st Street and Columbus Avenue, about 79th Street and Columbus Avenue. I have been

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to the 20th Precinct more than once to list the number of cars always waiting to turn onto 79th Street.

People, pedestrians risk a lot.

They get so tired of waiting because it seems like the lights are not going to change, that they walk across and then suddenly another 18 cars are coming around the corner. That's one thing.

Can you -- I mean, I should have written that report not whoever did it.

Can you just imagine, just picture three to five years of heavy duty trucks. You know with those big tires and all the equipment that comes with it. What access street are they using to move whatever they're going to move?

I mean just every street is already crowded. Anybody who lives here can realistically say, that -- there's a lot of awful things to come just from that. And I saw tonight how I thought, how ironic, right outside that little area with the time capsule, there are trees. There are sunshine. There are benches. There are paths to walk along.

This imagine presented by the

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Museum to the New York Times three months ago,
shows the lobby of the proposed new building, which
looks like an --

5 VOICES: Use your mic.

MS. CALAMANDRE: Oh, sorry.

It was three months ago. The
article was titled, Thinking Inside the Footprint.

Look at the size of this Museum? Can you tell me
there's no place in this Museum to build what's

12 (Applause.)

MS. COBB KONON: The next three

14 speakers are:

needed?

15 Leslie Mantrone;

Bill Roudenbush; and,

Michael Hiller, please.

Go ahead, please.

MS. MANTRONE: Hi. My name is

20 Leslie Mantrone. I live across the street on 80th

21 Street. Mantrone, M-a-n-t-r-o-n-e.

I can't agree more with what

23 people have said so far. I mean, I'm very

24 concerned about the quality of life along Columbus

25 Avenue. We see the impact of Shake Shak, which

certainly doesn't have 750,000 people a year. And so to think about the amount of congestion, human congestion, the amount of garbage that's going to be happening after all of the construction. I'm talking about beyond that, forever more.

I really look to the Parks

Department to be our advocate. And -- and I'm not sure that you're playing that role particularly with this plan that --

(Applause.)

MS. MANTRONE: -- really needs independent scrutiny. And I would hope -- and we would hope that that's what the Parks Department is supposed to be doing.

Parks are precious and it's one of the reasons why we love New York City so much. We love our parks. And once you lose parkland, it does not come back.

(Applause.)

MS. MANTRONE: And I don't think it's right or fair for the Parks Department to just allow that to happen in the name of a monied institution. You're our advocates. You need to look at this plan. You need to really think in

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a -- in a very tough way about what this is going to mean for people's lives and particularly for the parks.

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Thank you.

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(Applause.)

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MR. ROUTENBUSH: Hello.

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My name is william Routenbush. I

9

am the Vice President of Community United to

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Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park.

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Let me first say, it's a little

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silly and childish to turn off the air conditioning

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in here when it's an icebox outside. But way to

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go. School yard bully, you know, what can you do.

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What we're talking about tonight

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is something very clear, the privatization of

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public lands and buildings permanently diminishes

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our quality of life. We deserve responsible City

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government that clearly articulates not just the

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interim benefits but also, the long-term negative

impacts of moving our public assets into private

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hands.

(Applause.)

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MR. ROUTENBUSH: This is an issue

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that goes much beyond the American Museum of

Natural History and the failure, the utter failure of our elected officials, to do anything but glad hand and high five as they march the bulldozers into our precious park.

Now Jeanne Gang recently had a quote about the Gilder Center and she was, you know, pumping herself up for her work and she said, "You know it's not really about building buildings." She actually said these words, "It's about community and well being."

Who feels that this project impacts their well being positively?

VOICES: No.

MR. ROUTENBUSH: Wow. Look at that. Not a single hand I can see from this angle thinks that this project positively impacts their well being.

(Applause.)

MR. ROUTENBUSH: And let's talk about this document, this DEIS, this Draft
Environmental Impact Statement. Do you realize what this thing says about the emission from the site, about the users in the park? They're keeping part of the park open. They actually say

that even though construction begins at 7:00 a.m., that no one really uses the park during the day so that it won't have an impact on the park users. It actually says that in this document.

They also say that since construction equipment moves from point A to point B within the site, that the park won't be affected too much because if you stand in the same place, it's something like if we're both moving somehow the -- and they also the construction fence as a barrier against carbon monoxide.

Now we have our lawyer here,

Michael Hiller and I want to know how many people
want to hear him speak?

(Applause.)

MR. ROUTENBUSH: That is absolutely fantastic.

Now one of the reasons I'm here is because I look at this and I look at the candidates for City Council and I look at the way Helen Rosenthal has treated this project. And it occurs to me that we need somebody very serious to do the responsible work of government, not blah, blah, talk about the minutiae of the smallest level

of that job but get comprehensive zoning reform done. Get -- deal with ULURP and deal with these processes in a more serious way.

This is a community review process and it's the lowest one. The higher ones are also corrupt.

My name is William Routenbush and I am stepping down from Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park to run for City Council and I will change each and every one of the problems that we're dealing with tonight. And I will get community review on all of these projects, or I damn well force the other candidates all the way to address this project and make sure that our interests are protected.

There is nothing wrong with wanting to preserve your parkland. It's part and parcel of being a New Yorker. And if we all stand together and we all step up, this is the age of Trump and we can't get things done but we have a narrow window of activism to get things done, get real zoning reform done and get our public parks protected.

Our quality of life is our legacy

2 and we should stand up for it. We should stand up 3 for it now.

Candidate Bill.

5 (Applause.)

MR. HILLER: Every time I speak after Bill, I'm always reminded how much taller he is than I am.

My name is Michael Hiller. I'm a land use preservation and environmental attorney and the managing partner of Hiller PC.

We represent Community United and an assortment of other citizen groups dedicated to preserving Teddy Roosevelt Park. In all, we represent approximately 15,000 people, a third of whom have signed a petition. That's right, 5,000 people in the City of New York have already signed a petition opposing this project.

There are an enormous series of problems here with respect to this project. The primary one, of course, is the loss of precious green space in Teddy Roosevelt Park. But the more important one is, and I'll get to it in a few moments, a -- a project such as this will violate New York City Law and New York State Law.

And I promise you, if the Museum does not abide by New York City and New York State law, I promise you, we will come after this institution in the courts to make sure that you do comply.

(Audience participation.)

(Applause.)

MR. HILLER: But before addressing the law, I would like to first address the environmental issues.

Now Sean Khorsandi and Susan Nial and a number of other speakers have addressed a number of the environmental issues. I can't go through all of them in the limited time that I have. But I can tell you now I am going to finish my remarks, whether the three minutes is full or not. I'll just -- you guys will have to arrest me.

So here's where we go. First, let's talk for a second about the statement that was prepared by the Draft -- the Draft
Environmental Impact Statement prepared by AKRF.

I know AKRF very well because I

litigate against them all the time. AKRF is -- is

not an independent environmental firm. AKRF is a sop to the developers. This is what they do. I have read countless AKRF reports and I promise you, they have never said, you know, what, oops, this has a substantial adverse impact. We should change it. They don't do that.

You know what they do? They say, hum, this works for us. I think this project would be just swell and all of a sudden the City gets behind it. Well, that's not right.

And I have with me today an 11-page, single-spaced environmental report prepared by GHD Environmental Consulting. This environmental firm doesn't do business with New York City developers. They are truly independent. They're in 130 countries, six continents across the world. This is what they do. And they are absolutely resolute that this project is an unmitigated disaster.

(Audience participation.)

MR. HILLER: You talk about benzene -- there's benzene in the ground. There's arsenic in the ground. There are underground storage tanks in the ground with oil, with organic

violative compounds.

There are a series of problems with this project and worst of all, all of these compounds in the ground are across the street from a public school, a public school yard and Teddy Roosevelt Park, which apparently the Museum doesn't recognize is used during the day by children.

Now in addition, in addition to the issues of environmental protection, which I wish I could go through but I don't have the time.

I just want to talk briefly about the law. With respect to the law, the American Museum of Natural History signed a lease in 1877. In 1877 they were given permission to have the building and its appertances. In 1877, the word appertances means something very different from what it means today. Appertances means use. You cannot build on use. Use is equivalent to an easement.

So what the Museum got was the land on which it's situated, the building and the walkways that go to and from the Museum, just so people could go in and out of the Museum. That's all the American Museum of Natural History got in

1 2 1877. So I'll tell you, the way it 3 4 works is, they're not allowed to build in the areas 5 they're asking to build. And if they want to do 6 that, they're going to have to renegotiate their 7 lease and if they want to renegotiate their lease, 8 they're going to have to comply with something 9 called the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure --MS. COBB KONON: Please conclude 10 11 your remarks, please. So other people have a 12 chance to speak. 13 (Audience participation.) 14 MR. HILLER: They --15 MS. COBB KONON: We don't -- no, 16 we --17 MR. HILLER: This nice lady has 18 agreed to give me her three minutes. 19 MS. COBB KONON: No, that's not 20 the way it works, sir. Sorry, that's not the way 21 it works. 22 MR. HILLER: They have to 23 comply --

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MS. COBB KONON:

your comments and you can provide written

You can wrap up

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2 testimony.

MR. HILLER: So let me just say,

Bill Routenbush said a few moments ago, that he

thought it was childish that the Museum turned off

the air conditioning in this room. I think it's

more than that, Bill -- I agree with Bill on just

about everything. But I think it's much more than

that.

Cutting me off, not letting

people cede their time to me, turning the heat -
the air conditioning off, turning this place into a

sauna, you know what this is about? This is about

you not wanting to hear from the people here.

This is about you wanting people to leave. And I can tell you right now that -
MS. COBB KONON: We would like

to hear everybody this evening -(Audience participation.)

MR. HILLER: With all due

21 respect, I don't think you do.

Let me just -- let me just finish

23 up, please.

MS. COBB KONON: We would like to

25 hear everybody this evening.

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2 MR. HILLER: Let me just finish up 3 for just one second.

So let me just say, let me just say, turning off the air conditioning, turning this place into a sauna, cutting people off, making this process difficult, I can promise you this. You and I don't know each other but I have a feeling we're going to get to know each other because I'm telling you now, I'm with Community United and the 15,000 people we represent.

I love the Museum. My kids have come to this Museum. I came here as a kid. I have nothing against the Museum but I do have a problem with this project and I promise this community, I will stand with you. We will fight and we will beat it.

18 Thank you.

19 (Audience participation.)

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. CASTRO: Okay.

The next three speakers:

23 Faith Steinberg;

24 Claudia DiSalvo; and,

Peter Blanchard.

MS. STEINBERG: Hi. My name is Faith Steinberg. I'm an Upper West Side resident for 44 years.

And I quote, it is vandalism to wantonly destroy or to -- or to -- I can't read -- or to permit the destruction of what is beautiful in nature, whether it be a cliff, a forest or a park, I add -- as a species and a species of mammal or bird.

Here in the United States we turn our rivers and our streams into sewers and dumping grounds. We pollute the air. We destroy forests and exterminate fishes, birds and mammals. But at least at last it looks as if our people were awakening. End of quote. That's Theodore Roosevelt.

(Applause.)

MS. STEINBERG: Teddy Roosevelt, who was on the original Board of Trustees of the Museum is presently turning over in his grave.

(Applause.)

MS. STEINBERG: And I think the people have fallen into an even greater sleep than before and that's why we have our new president.

As recently as 2015, a consortium of natural history museums around the country had to pressure our museum director to -- to divest their fossil fuel investments. But the Board of Trustees, I bet, has not divested.

In this critical time when ice caps are melting, causing the streams and our waterway -- oceans and waterways to rise, when there is -- where -- which in turn is causing flooding, where animal species are dying out at a faster rate than ever before. Plus all sorts of disaster, how can we trust an institution to teach science when they are all ignoring all these signs of climate change nor do they give a damn what happens to the climate in our community --

(Applause.)

MS. STEINBERG: -- health or

19 weatherwise.

Apparently the Museum has many more artifacts they want to exhibit. Institutions like our museums, our universities and our hospitals, all have annexes. There's no reason why another museum cannot be built in a community where it will not impinge and destroy what is in

2 existence.

And our major media has chosen to -- one more -- two more sentences -- to cover this disaster in our midst. And I am distressed that our elected officials have exceeded and contributed financially to this boundoggle in a time when our City has so many needs of greater consequence.

(Applause.)

MS. DI SALVO: Claudia DiSalvo, president of Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park.

A little history. Before the Museum was a year old, a Trustee wrote to the Commissioner of Central Park and asked that they not only give the Trustee use of two upper floors in the -- in the Armory, but that they pay for the construction of the exhibition cases, guards and maintenance workers.

From that day forward, the City set up a precedent of the Treasury, being the gift that keeps giving on for the committee for the Museum.

The Museum, a private

1869.

institution, has received, or will receive based on budget releases, approximately \$140 million taxpayer dollars, without a public hearing and has used those dollars without City accounting oversight. It is incomprehensible that we taxpayers have supported the Museum throughout the decades, hundreds of millions of dollars to keep the Museum running since its existence in

It is clear, based on historical research that without the City support, the Museum would have gone belly up long ago. The Museum owes the City big time.

One would think that within the Museum's planning for the Gilder Center, someone would have considered reflecting on their sustainability principles and their ability to be proactive to protect Theodore Roosevelt Park and Margaret Mead Green.

Public parkland situated in a fragile environment in a highly urbanized location that is still developing and not bring upon themselves a community backlash when the City has given them life support at every start of their

2 history, before encroaching and taking our park.

Take a moment and read the

4 | Museum's sustainability principles. Buried on page

5 8 of the DEIS, it reads: In 1876 the State Statute

6 set aside the property for use by the Museum. That

7 | was over 100 years ago when land was available.

The situation is very different today.

Green space is rare. Green space is precious and at a premium. In today's world, does the New York City Parks consider when evaluating a project, the ramifications when City parkland is taken away on a project that has an enormous footprint already?

And in the words of Jeanne Gang, the Museum's architect, stated at an earlier meeting, "She could meet the Museum's mission within its present footprint."

We all understand that this is not yet a done deal. It requires approvals and further reviews. But let me remind you, New York recently celebrated 123-year old tree in Queens. A fence was put up around the tree to protect it and invited New Yorkers to come visit it and celebrate the tree in Queens.

Tell me, Parks Department, how can you allow the cutting down of seven magnificent trees, losing a gorgeous canopy?

(Applause.)

MS. DI SALVO: Is this the collateral effect that we hear about? We need to consider the benefits of the project that focuses on the Gilder University STEM program. They have been heralding the programs as the end all and be all.

Consider for a moment the Department of Education receiving \$140 million to deliver a STEM program, what would -- what would those rewards be like? Over one million Pre-K through 12th grade children would receive a 21st century state-of-the-art education in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.

What is the value of this for our City, democracy, economy and our global dominance in the leadership of innovation and technology?

(Applause.)

MR. BLANCHARD: Hello. Peter Blanchard. B-l-a-n-c-h-a-r-d.

I'm with the Community United to

Save our Park.

I'm a great supporter of the Museum, have been. Our family has been. My grandfather was a paleontologist whose work is on display in the Museum at this time and has been for a long time, Hall of Vertebrae Paleontology.

just wanted to point out. One from a prior meeting when Ellen Fodder and the Museum met with the community. And the question was asked, well, let's say if this is sacrificed to your -- to your plan and the plan proceeds, what is the guarantee that the rest of Roosevelt Park will be free of this threat? And the answer was very clear. We have no plan at this time.

So to me it seems like we're opening the -- the Pandora's Box to future problems if this project goes through, a major, major bad, bad precedent.

The other thing I wanted to mention is a success story at the Frick Collection on -- I'm on the board of that collection. And we were enlightened by the community and by the -- the Commission on Landscape Preservation and by the

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2 City on the importance of postage stamp green In this case with the Frick Collection, space. it's something you can't even walk into most of the time because it's cordoned off and it's a visual place and a visual place to enhance your experience.

8 Well, when the -- when the 9 project goes forward, if it does here and the construction takes over, they'll be very -- it'll 10 be very, very hard to enjoy the -- enjoy the park 11 12 and it will be severely impacted by -- by that.

And, also, the plans to make the park more accessible, more trails, more benches, more -- all of that is going to undercut the -- the beautiful nature of sequestered green space for the eye and for the spirit.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. CASTRO: The next three

21 speakers:

22 Camilla Calamandre;

23 Ernest Pysher; and,

Barbara Sacks. 24

25 FEMALE VOICE: Hello. Good

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evening.

3 Everybody hears me here?

4 Okay. Good evening.

I just want to really quick, I

6 | won't take three minutes. I will take one.

7 I just want to say, I am a New

8 Yorker like all of us here. We live our parks. We

walk these parks. We want our grandchildren to

10 walk these parks and our grand kids to walk our

11 parks.

12 I believe if nothing is broken,

13 you shouldn't fix it. Your Museum of Natural

14 | History has been here a long time. You have a lot

15 of space. Why take away the greenery, not just for

16 us, the animals are there.

17 Like our fellow New Yorkers are

18 saying, we sit down there. We read our books. We

19 concentrate on our day. We focus. It helps us.

20 When you have all this stuff going on, it's not

21 going to be the same, trust me. And when you take

22 away parks and put pavement and cement, it will

23 never come back.

You don't need to extend your

25 Natural Museum, it's already extended. What is

2 MR. PYSHER: My name is Ernest, 3 E-r-n-e-s-t, Pysher, P-y-s-h-e-r.

You're probably the only person
I've ever heard say it correctly.

Thank you.

Mr. -- Mr. Wells, you've been really led under false circumstances. They say the park is used. We don't use the park. We only use one-half the park. We don't use 77th Street. We're not allowed to walk in there. We're not allowed to use that for anything.

We're going to invite 750,000 people a year, 15,000 a week. Do the math. Fifteen thousand extra people in one area on 79th Street.

You need to open up 77th Street so we can use that.

I went to the Community Board meeting and they approved bus parking on the east side of Central Park West to save the buses.

I don't understand why you would allow them to make a left-hand turn in that area.

If you put the bus on the west side in front of the Museum, they then could turn on 77th Street and make a right turn. The children could get off and

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2 not have to cross the street.

I don't understand why the
Community Board didn't really see that kind of
logic.

I -- I feel sorry for the speaker, Linh Do from AKRF. I feel sorry the way that the speaker was treated. But, you know, if you say stupid things, people laugh at you.

(Laughter.)

MR. PYSHER: One second -- okay

12 everybody.

A VOICE: One.

MR. PYSHER: That's gonna save -that is going to save lives.

We put a select bus lane in. We and Helen Rosenthal bragged about this at a previous meeting. We've never had a death when we had the whole -- under 25 mile-an-hour thing because of the accidents that were happening on 96th Street. We had a death. We put a bus lane in. You put a select bus lane in. A biker was

22 in. You put a select bus lane in. A biker was

23 killed.

You have got to realize the consequences. And that select bus lane that you

put in to help the environment, it's bright red and if you go from 79th Street over to the other side, follow that bus lane, there is no, there is no -- there is no restricted parking. There is no bright red. That disappeared.

There was only block in the City of New York with that -- and the 79th Street bus, that one block is 81st Street, Columbus to Central Park West. Why?

This project was put in by the Museum three years ago because I went to the Community Board 7. We talked about it. It was voted down and now because you're building the center, they're jumping on top of it.

You need -- you need to use the park for the present conditions. You've got too many buses. You put them all on 81st Street. If you want to save the environment, you want to help this 81st Street and Columbus -- take the buses, put them over on 77th Street.

A VOICE: We have them already.

MR. PYSHER: Excuse me. You have buses parking there. You don't have them there.

25 They do not pull into the lot.

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By the way, the other question is this and I'll be finished real quick.

In 1995 when the Rose Center was built, that little parkway where all the cars pull in and the buses pull in, was called a carriage way and to have limited use. In the contract that we signed, we agreed with in the neighborhood for the Rose Center and we were lied to by the Museum.

Why should we believe this? This is only the beginning.

77th Street, I contend, Ernest
Pysher, is being saved for the future expansion of
the Museum. We are not being able to go there with
paths and build a park there and use it the way we
use the 81st Street side because they are saving
that for the future expansion.

We need to stop that.

MR. CASTRO: All right.

20 Thank you.

MR. PYSHER: We need to use that

22 park.

23 (Applause.)

MS. SACKS: I'm Barbara Sacks,

25 S-a-c-k-s.

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2 Thank you.

I have a few questions for this hearing that can be answered simply yes or no.

Do you believe that 100-year old trees in a public park should be saved?

7 VOICES: Yes.

MS. SACKS: Do you believe that saving Bryant Park and Damrosche Park was a victory for the citizens of New York?

11 VOICES: Yes.

MS. SACKS: In this time of hunger and homelessness, is this project the best

15 VOICES: No.

use of taxpayer dollars?

MS. SACKS: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

MS. CALAMANDREI: Hi. My name is

19 Camilla Calamandrei. C-a-l-a-m-a-n-d-r-e-i.

20 I was raised in this

21 neighborhood. I live here now. I have a son who

went to school around the corner and up a little

23 further.

He and his second grade class

did, indeed, learn to love and admire the pigeons,

studying them here in Theodore Roosevelt Park and they saw those bugs and those worms live and appreciated it for what it was - a really significant outdoor space for kids who otherwise don't have that.

So all of that just is a preamble. There's other people who have said to throw ourselves on your mercy and ask you to please do your jobs and preserve parkland for us and to look at the environmental hypocrisy in this proposal.

As a professional who works with the City on carbon emission mitigation, it seems that there are a number of questions about the carbon emissions that will be created during construction and then once the project is completed, the lack of accountability for the new structure itself going forward about whether it really -- it will be a world standard in energy conservation.

It goes without saying that noise and traffic and all these other things that get lumped under this Environmental Impact report is also about our quality of life.

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2 So guickly, we move from the 3 scientific analysis of what's acceptable or measurable to what does that translate to us? 4 So I don't even know how to 5 6 understand how all the departments could possibly 7 work together and accept the level of conflict and inaccuracy and misrepresentation that seems to be 8 9 in this document. It just -- it doesn't -- it

So it's kind of an odd -- it's an odd document. And, you know, we just request as a citizen counting on you to at least look out for our interests and make sure that the project is in alignment with the environmental commitment the City has made and the quality of life, you know, concerns that we have as residents.

doesn't even read as a logical testimony in favor

19 Thanks.

of the project.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. CASTRO: Okay. The next

22 three speakers:

Jac Radoff;

Joseph Heyman; and,

David Rudofsky.

MR. RUDOFSKY: I'll go first.

3 I'm David Rudofsky.

R-u-d-o-f-s-k-y.

5 Thanks for the chance to speak.

I'm an Upper West Side resident

and a father of three and also an independent

8 business consultant.

Speaking first as a father of three, I remember taking my two older kids who are now out of the house to the Museum of Natural History and I always cautioned them, there's more here than you can see in one day. There's more here than you can see in one day so we're going to have to pick and choose. So from that perspective, we never needed any bigger museum.

(Applause.)

MR. RUDOFSKY: Now with my younger son, who was at PS 89 when I was fortunate to be a chaperone for a class trip to learn some science at the Museum of Natural History, it was a wonderful hour we spent there. And what made it so great was that the teacher really connected with the kids, that the instruction design was really great and that they had really good props. And my

son had a great time. We had a great time.

And there was no lack of a glitzier classroom. The classroom that they had right here in the Museum of Natural History was just fine. So I kind of ask the Parks Department, as you make your assessment ask, what kind of educational assessment was done about the current classroom and current instructional facilities and in what way are they lacking in meeting the needs of the students who come from scientific instruction because they worked great for my son? And if I wanted something glitzy, they could book a flight to Orlando and go to Epcot because I've been there with my older kids and that's great.

But the Museum of Natural History right now works well for the instructional design that they were trying to do the day my son came here.

Now wearing my consultant's hat,

I work with a lot of small and mid-sized businesses
in the outer boroughs of New York, Brooklyn and

Queens. And some of them are growing and they're

struggling to figure out how they can expand their

space or move to a bigger space and make it work

within a budget. And to do that, because they don't have access to City money to expand and they can't carve into a nearby City park, they have to use a lot of ingenuity.

And the kind of things I see them doing are building additional partitions, building out mezzanines on the second floor to make better use of the additional space they have overhead, clearing out clutter and sometimes they move the non-essential, non-core activities out of the primary expensive space and into some annex facility.

So I kind of, again, ask the

Parks Department, how -- how good an assessment do

you feel the Museum of Natural History did about

how they use their space?

My last question before I finish speaking here, is anybody from the Museum of Natural History here today?

Okay.

So then I apologize because I didn't know. Because I don't know who all the players are.

So I'll end with that.

2 But thank you for the chance to 3 speak.

(Applause.)

5 MR. HEYMAN: I appreciate you 6 people having this meeting tonight.

For the record, my name is Joseph Heyman, H-e-y-m-a-n.

I live at 35 West 81st Street.

There's no discussion that within the next several years the quality of life around the Museum will go down, both through the construction and the increased numbers of people going to the Museum.

And what I'm asking, which is not a quid pro quo, it's a gesture, the Museum -I'm looking -- what can the Museum do for us that would mitigate or make it less onerous? And it's just a small item. The Museum presently has a public parking garage, which houses 388 cars.

I've surveyed this garage at night there's maybe 100 cars using it. I've talked to management of the garage and they substantiate that there are about 300 empty spaces at night.

And I'm just proposing, since the

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Museum is going to be reducing the quality of my life somewhat because I'm 81st Street, I'm asking if it's possible if the Museum, as a gesture, could perhaps make these 300 car spaces available to the immediate neighborhood on a free basis by lottery.

(Applause.)

MR. HEYMAN: Will it equal what's going to happen to the quality of life? No. But it is a gesture which I'm asking the Museum, which it would cost them nothing because the spaces are empty. It would be a gesture to a neighborhood that they're trying something to make our lives better.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

17 MR. CASTRO: All right.

18 The next three speakers are:

19 Seth Gershel;

20 Richard Cohen; and,

21 Hope Reiner.

MR. GERSHEL: Thank you.

23 Seth Gershel. I live on 79th and

24 Columbus.

25 I came here -- I've been

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listening to a lot of these meetings and maybe I'm hitting the point right on or maybe I'm not. But this is kind of a very clean process for a real dirty business.

I mean the Parks Department is like a wholly owned subsidiary of the Museum. You know that and I know that.

They coif that park better than I coif myself in the morning and I can't walk on the lawn because I'm not allowed because there's fences there. So please don't tell me what my life should be like with my neighbor when you guys don't take care of me. You should be working for us, not for this Museum.

(Applause.)

MR. GERSHEL: This building --

18 Thank you.

This building is not for science.

20 It's not for mom. It's for apple pie. I'm getting 21 a little nauseous hearing this. This is a party

space. You know it and I know it.

(Applause.)

MR. GERSHEL: Because none of

25 your report ever takes advantage of the time at

2:00 in the morning when I'm awake by those morons leaving those little meetings at night and parties and blocking traffic on Columbus. Don't tell me that's not a danger. And you think you're going to mitigate that for me? I think what you better do is mitigate me for them because I'm not putting up with this, not the dirt, not the grime, not the congestion, not the nothing.

Please don't listen. It don't matter. But you guys are taking notes so it will be fine.

You guys got to look at the congestion of people, not just cars. They're taking away the parking spaces for the buses but you mention the bus lane, somebody did and the accident there. Why is this Museum taking over our neighborhood? What is this, NYU?

(Audience participation.)

MR. GERSHEL: Why is this happening? It's a great museum. I just renewed my membership today. So I guess I'm in favor of science too. But I don't need a wedding space and that's what this is.

With Ms. Rosenthal's money, with

116 1 2 my money and with that guy's money -- whatever. 3 Let him spend it somewhere else. It makes me a little upset. I think they're bad neighbors and I think being a good neighbor is really important, 5 6 especially in a City like New York where you're 7 right up against your neighbor. Because a bad 8 neighbor can cause a lot of problems. 9 Have a nice day. Thank you. 10 (Applause.) 11 12 MR. CASTRO: We called these 13 three before: right? Richard Cohen. 14 15 Hope Reiner. 16 (No response.) 17 MR. CASTRO: All right. 18 The next three: Michael Plummer; 19 20 Musa Klebnikov; and, 21 S. Sosnow -- I'm sure I didn't say that right. 22 23 A VOICE: You did. 24 I did.

Oh, great.

MR. CASTRO:

Thank you.

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2 Two for two.

MS. KLEBNIKOV: Hello.

I'm Musa Klebnikov and I'm a

5 neighbor.

Thank you very much for listening to all of our frustrations and aspirations.

And I know you didn't design the park but you are the guardians of the process. And I carefully read the DEIS. And I think there's some flaws in it that -- on a very mechanical level, regardless of the merits of the project itself, but perhaps you could focus on these.

They are supposed to explore alternatives as part of the process. I looked at those lists of alternatives. It didn't include anything to do with using 77th Street as the primary entrance for their -- expanded attendance.

77th Street was designed as the principal entrance.

21 (Applause.)

MS. KLEBNIKOV: It's both
architecturally and in terms of the accessibility
from the street, a very, very suitable place. And
I think that analysis needs to happen because it

sort of block head not to look at that very, very clearly.

It's not even used as an

entrance. It's actually a two-tier entrance so

maybe the flow and circulation could work very

well.

Interior circulation can be rearranged in any direction. I'm not objecting to their interior desire to improve their flow.

Transportation wise, again, you've looked at Saturday but anyone who lives here knows Sunday is actually the problem.

(Applause.)

MS. KLEBNIKOV: Because we have a lot of street life on Sunday. We have a farmer's market. We have a crafts market and the number of people -- and there's the flea market so the number of people on the streets is much higher on Sunday. Maybe not attendance at the Museum but you must study Sunday, not just Saturday.

That brings home the whole issue of the sidewalk. There are really a lot of things happening on Columbus Avenue between 81st and 77th. There's park lanes, people, fares, dogs, strollers,

trucks, buses actually currently parking on both sides of Columbus sometimes. There is no room to increase the number of people let alone services for them. It's completely packed out.

So I don't understand that having been studied correctly. The bus issue is obviously huge. There is no accounting for the additional buses and that's an issue.

In terms of design and the character of the neighborhood, we really don't need a gigantic entrance on 79th Street. It can be a modest, humble, welcoming entrance but the great gigantic important entrance exists, as I said. The character of this side of the building is calm and peaceful. The other side can be bigger.

(Applause.)

MS. KLEBNIKOV: And then I'll leave but my final point, I think, is there is really a need to open up the 77th Street green area for not only today, all the Shake Shak people but the rest of us would love to have some more green parks.

So thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MS. SOSNOW: Hi. My name is Stephanie Sosnow.

And I was a science teacher here in District 3 for 22 years. I dealt with school children all the time and science all the time.

And I love this Museum. And I've been a New Yorker all my life. I have four kids of my own who were born and raised here across the street on 81st Street. And I hate this new expansion.

(Applause.)

MS. SOSNOW: I don't understand what you need it for. But to be practical, let's talk about trees. You disrupt their roots with construction work, they're going to die anyway, even if you leave them in the plans. If you cut off their limbs to make the trucks more accessible, they're going to die anyway because they're not going to get enough photosynthesis from nutrition. So they're going to die anyway.

These trees that are old growth trees are not going to be replaced even if we took the same exact tree, planted it today. Let it grow for the same exact amount of time, you wouldn't get the same height tree because of air pollution and

lack of space and lack of sunlight and lack of everything.

(Applause.)

MS. SOSNOW: Plus dogs peeing on them and all sorts of lovely things like rats.

There are going to be endless more rats. We have rat problems already here in the City - one rat per person. You dig up something like this for three to five years, let's say it's five years because there's always overage, we're going to have rats running all over the place. We don't need that.

And when Shake Shak opened up,

I'm not blaming Shake Shak, but when you get

additional food dropped by additional people eating

out in public on public streets, it's not being

cleaned up by the Museum necessarily and you,

therefore, have a larger rodent population.

You have all sorts of problems that are not being dealt with, simple, little tiny, itsy bitsy problems that are not being dealt with.

And just the fact that they're supposed to be 750 or 1,000 or more people coming to this area -- just that, just wear and tear on sidewalks and benches and streets and everything,

just dirt, little tiny gum wrapper, litter

problems. I mean, we don't even have to think big.

We can think little. Everything is going to be

magnified and multiplied and -- and we don't have

the facilities now to deal with the tourists that

we already have because this is an adult museum.

I love that this is an adult museum that children come to and children are inspired to be adults, adult scientists and adult people.

I don't want a dowdy museum, a Dr. Seuss museum to attract children when we already have a children's museum down the block.

(Applause.)

MS. SOSNOW: I want an adult museum. They want to build a connecting tunnel to complete the -- so they can get around the Museum. I don't have a problem with a crosswalk. That's fine. Keep it within the footprint of the Museum.

There's an aerial photograph on the -- on the computer from above the Museum

the -- on the computer from above the Museum looking down. You can see exactly where the footprint is for the rectangle.

Stay in the rectangle.

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2	(Applause.)
3	MS. SOSNOW: Don't bother the
4	trees.
5	MR. CASTRO: The next speakers:
6	Michael Plummer;
7	Sanjay Miller; and,
8	Holland Taylor.
9	A VOICE: Michael Plummer gave me
10	his time.
11	(Applause.)
12	MS. COBB KONON: No, sorry, sir.
13	If you're already spoken and each person gets three
14	minutes. It's not the same as the Community Board.
15	It is just one person for
16	A VOICE: Michael Plummer left
17	and before he left he
18	MS. COBB KONON: No, I'm sorry.
19	It's just not the way the proceedings work here.
20	Each person gets three minutes.
21	Thank you.
22	A VOICE: I'm speaking on behalf
23	of Michael Plummer.
24	MS. COBB KONON: If people would
25	like to provide more comments, they can provide

Richard Gilder Center will be a permanent exhibit where we can bring our children to and teach them about man's insatiable need to destroy the world around us.

(Applause.)

MR. COYLE: I -- I hope that Richard Gilder realizes that he's going to be remembered with the likes of Scott Pruitt. And I think it's all of our mission to make sure that he is remembered for that because we will be living here forever.

Teach your children what Richard Gilder did here. Okay.

I -- you think you're doing a good thing. I know you know you're doing a bad thing but you think the good thing you're doing is better. It's kind of like Sea World. They thought they were teaching children by locking up whales but they weren't really teaching children about whales, they were teaching them that whales are just things.

Our parklands and the world around us are more important than this little atrium that you're going to build.

disappointed if they took away Teddy Roosevelt

I would feel angry and

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Park. If you don't save the park, I won't have anyplace to ride my bike -- my bike in my neighborhood.

I am also worried about the
pollution during all the years of construction.

I'm really interested in presidents and one of my

favorite ones is Theodore Roosevelt because he is a very important president and he helped create parks and protect the environment.

I would be so sad if they took away the trees and park named after Theodore Roosevelt.

14 (Audience participation.)

15 (Applause.)

MS. NASH STUDNESS: My name is
Nash Studness and I'm nine years old and I have

lived on 79th Street since I was two years old.

19 I'm in third grade at PS 87,

which is one block away from the Museum.

I do not want any of Theodore

Roosevelt Park to be replaced by more buildings.

I also really enjoy looking for

24 animals in Teddy Roosevelt Park with my family.

I spotted blue jays and cardinals

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and love seeing the fire flies at dusk in the summer.

I am concerned about the impact of the construction and increased crowds on the animals in the park.

Teddy Roosevelt believed in preserving nature and green space and so I do not think trees should be eliminated in a City park named after him.

I am concerned about our challenging climate and think we should preserve as much of nature as we can.

I am also concerned about pollution for the next three to five years.

16 (Applause.)

MR. CASTRO: All right.

18 Alexandra Drayton.

19 Frank Gormely.

rhetorically anyway.

MR. GORMELY: I get to follow those eloquent children. So I'll be brief.

I did have a question when I arrived here but I understand you don't take questions now. But I'll speak the question

Whose brain child was this project? I'd really love to know that.

But the proposal under

consideration this evening strikes me as a

lose-lose proposition.

In order to deface the wonderful landmark structure in which we find ourselves here and which exists to document and celebrate the even more stunning wonders of living nature, some of which have beautifully and fittingly framed this manmade structure for most of its history, a large swath of that living ecosystem will be wiped out, possibly never to be replaced -- probably never to be replaced.

Lose-lose. The building, the park and let me add, I've never entered the Museum by that entrance before but I was amazed at the sprawling hallway spaces and rooms and doors and leading everywhere. It seems to me there's plenty of room in the existing structure.

(Applause.)

MR. CASTRO: Alexandra Drayton?

(No response.)

MR. CASTRO: No. Okay.

2 Jess Studness.

They spoke. I think the Studness

4 family spoke already.

5 Rachelle Pachtman;

6 Martha Dwyer; and,

7 Sue Ellen Estey. Is that

8 correct?

9 MS. ESTEY: Correct.

MR. CASTRO: Okay. Very good.

11 A VOICE: There were three other

12 names -- two other names before me.

MR. CASTRO: I'm sorry. What's

14 your name?

MS. ESTEY: Sue Ellen Estey.

MR. CASTRO: Well, we may have

17 them elsewhere here. But they'll get their chance

18 to speak. Go ahead.

19 MS. ESTEY: I've been through a

20 number of these meetings all along the way and I

21 have prepared nothing, did not intend to speak

22 tonight.

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But as I sit here, again, in this

24 room and the insanity of all of this just

overwhelms me to the point that I cannot keep quiet

2 any longer.

I have to ask these questions.

Where did this plan and why was

5 this plan evolved?

Was it because the Museum needs to have a project to cover their debt? Is it?

Because there's a lot of evidence to that effect.

Or at least I understand that.

Or is this because Mr. Gilder wants his name on a big wall? If he does, why doesn't he like take his project elsewhere. There are a number of very good suggestions about where this money could be much more intelligently spent.

Or is because Neil DiGrasse Tyson wants this done?

It's -- Neil DiGrasse Tyson is a very wonderful, extraordinary, fabulous human being who has an extraordinary amount of influence, like seven million Twitter followers, something like that. He has a huge interest in this Museum and obviously the Rose Center.

But all of this from the very beginning has gone like, oh, well. And if I may quote our representative, Helen Rosenthal, and this

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is really honestly the truth. She came to a block association meeting and I directly addressed and asked her, why? Her reasoning was if she could please give me her reasoning for how many millions of dollars she signed over to this project. she literally said -- Dee Rieber just left the She literally said, "Because Neil wants it." room.

a witness and anybody else who was at that meeting. So I just really don't understand the reasoning of this. The money is there. footprint is there. If the Museum needs to put

Is Neil -- Dee Rieber -- I have

their tunnels through, why can't they do it within

(Applause.)

the footprint of what they have?

MS. ESTEE: Why can't they -- why can't they come up with a much more intelligent plan, which they have been asked to do and then -and have taken to the Community Board 7 and the Community Board 7 said, la la la la. And just signed off on it as well.

I do not understand the impact of 750,000 people in this neighborhood. Are you out On an annual basis? of your mind? There's too

1 2 many people now. 3 (Applause.) 4 MS. ESTEY: What the heck is 5 going on here? This just doesn't -- it's like 6 there's -- there's like a link that just doesn't 7 connect to reality here. There's something going on that everything the Museum wants, it's like, oh, 8 9 we'll -- we will help. We all know we care. yes, we're listening to you. Yes, yes, yes. 10 11 Well, you're not. And this is 12 insanity. 13 (Applause.) 14 MR. CASTRO: All right. 15 Rachelle Pachtman; 16 Martha Dwyer. 17 No. 18 MS. DWYER: Martha Dwyer, yes. 19 MR. CASTRO: Okay. 20 MS. DWYER: Can I either cede my 21 time, not to Mike Hiller, or change my place in 22 order with Mel Weimar? 23 MS. COBB KONON: We can put you at the back of the pack if you would like to speak 24

later -- if you would like to speak later.

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2 MS. DWYER: Great. Then Mel can

3 speak now.

MS. COBB KONON: He needs to sign

5 up and have a speaker card. I'm happy to.

MS. DWYER: He did.

7 MS. COBB KONON: Just send it to

8 | the back there and it'll come up --

9 MR. CASTRO: No, you can't jump

10 the line.

MS. DWYER: He signed already up.

12 MS. COBB KONON: Yeah. It comes

in. We're taking people in order that they signed

14 up.

MR. CASTRO: Okay.

16 MS. COBB KONON: Yeah, we're

17 taking people in order that they signed up. So if

18 he has a card and he's put in --

19 MS. DWYER: So he can't jump the

20 line?

MR. CASTRO: We're almost --

22 we're almost at that point.

23 All right.

24 Cleo Dana --

MS. DWYER: No, no, wait.

2 MR. CASTRO: Richard Bashner;

3 and,

4 Sam Leff.

5 MS. DWYER: I will speak.

6 MR. CASTRO: Oh, you're going to

7 speak now. Fine.

MS. DWYER: Mel isn't allowed to.

9 Part of the purpose of this

10 meeting is to just --

MS. COBB KONON: Would you just

12 state your name for the record, again. Sorry.

MS. DWYER: I'm Martha Dwyer.

MS. COBB KONON: Thank you.

MS. DWYER: D-w-y-e-r.

16 Part of the purpose of this

17 meeting is to suggest areas to be looked at more

18 closely in connection with the Draft EIS.

19 I think the ability of the

20 police, the fire department and ambulances to

21 respond to emergencies in the neighborhood should

22 be considered very closely.

23 I think there should be an

24 analysis of how accurate the Museum's previous

25 estimates of the impact on the Rose Center would be

on the neighborhood, particularly in the number of visitors and on transportation.

I think that there should be a discussion of how much light will be emitted by the events taking place in this enormous atrium.

I find it hard to believe that only two buildings are going to require extra protection because of all the noise in the area. I think that should be looked at.

And I think, as has been suggested before and as I've suggested to the Museum, the biggest problem that's being addressed by this Gilder Center that can't be solved by moving the whole thing elsewhere is connecting the two ends to the U.

I can't believe there isn't a creative enough team to figure out a way to do that on one single level without having to stir up toxins, put some elevators at the end of it and in the side buildings.

The last thing I'd like to say is that Mike Hiller will be available outside the entrance to answer questions after this.

(Applause.)

MS. DANA: I am Cleo Dana,

3 Friends of Damrosche Park.

I and Olive Freund, the Committee for Environmentally Sound Development, took on the Mayor Bloomberg. Took on Parks Department and took on Lincoln Center, ING, Mercedes Benz, Fashion Week and got them out -- Fashion Week out.

(Applause.)

MS. DANA: A few determined citizens did that. And I want to give you hope that persistence and a good lawyer will get what you want.

We lost -- Damrosche Park, a public park to the commercial event with the blessings of the Parks Department. We had to fight the people who represent us and pay for it. Not right.

Yesterday, I attended a session at Lincoln Center where we learned a for-profit, private investment company will take over Damrosche Park for four months a year for a private -- and I hate to tell you who owns it, investment company that's saving Big Apple. Four months of the year.

So --

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A VOICE: Tell us who owns it?

MS. DANA: You look it up.

4 Compass Properties. Okay.

5 You look it up.

The Upper West Side has been besieged and overwhelmed by development. Every

8 incursion into our public parks, no matter how

9 small, by private organizations threatens the

10 quality of our lives.

11 The loss of even one quarter acre

12 to build a vanity atrium would unquestionably

overwhelm the area. And worse thing, set a

14 precedent for future incursion into the park.

When will this land grab end?

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. CASTRO: All right.

19 The next three speakers:

20 Richard Bashner;

21 Sam Leff; and,

22 Isabella Duncan.

MR. BASHNER: Good evening.

24 My name is Richard Bashner and I

am a Democratic candidate for Mayor of the City of

New York in the September 12th primary against
Mayor Bill DiBlasio.

4 (Applause.)

MR. BASHNER: I have been a lawyer for over 30 years, with 18 years of service on Brooklyn Community Board 6, including 15 years on its executive committee and four years as its chair. But I am not speaking on its behalf tonight.

Instead, I am running to give voice to New Yorkers whose voices are not being heard. I'm here tonight to stand with the people of the Upper West Side and to express my concern that this plan, as proposed, would result in the loss of precious green space comprising Teddy Roosevelt Park.

This fight against the privatization of public space is being fought by communities all over the City, often with the help of my good friend Michael Hiller. And we're fighting it in Brooklyn in Brooklyn Bridge Park.

And as Ben Franklin wrote, we must indeed all hang together or most assuredly we shall all hang separately.

Before I comment on the proposed expansion, I want you to know that the American Museum of Natural History is one of my favorite places in the whole world. Family and school trips here as a child growing up in the Bronx sparked and fanned the flames of my intellectual curiosity.

And my wife and I not only have taken our children but we also even slept here overnight beneath the blue whale.

As a result, I deeply love this
Museum and strongly support its mission. It is
important for New York City, all of New York City
as the leader in the world. However, we must apply
the strictest scrutiny to any proposal that
involves the loss of public parkland.

(Applause.)

MR. BASHNER: And we have to avoid it if at all possible and then reduce and mitigate any impacts.

The threshold question must really be whether all of the proposed additional space is needed and whether it's needed on site.

And even if so, whether the plan puts it in the most sensible location.

And after that determination, the planning process must reflect the needs and perspectives of the community. We need to hear the voices of the neighborhood and work through the consequences together.

This has not happened, as is too often the case with the current administration. As a result, we believe that we must send this plan back to the drawing board.

(Applause.)

MR. BASHNER: After we do so, first we must study more closely the extent to which the Museum may be able to meet its programmatic needs without cannibalizing precious parkland.

And second, we must explore design solutions that minimize or eliminate completely the need to take away any parkland at all and, also, reduce the oppressive massing that is planned to replace the current open space.

Again, I love museums and especially this Museum. But its expansion must be tempered by and respectful of the needs and views of the community. Right now this plan is nowhere

meeting this objective.

Instead, I urge you to listen to the people of this community and consider their perspectives. And wouldn't that be an amazing and refreshing change from the usual way of planning projects in New York City.

It is time for change and change now. We should be hearing the community not bulldozing over it.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

MR. CASTRO: Sam Leff;

14 Isabella Duncan.

MR. LEFF: This infuriates me so much I can hardly stand.

My name is Samuel Leff. I was working about 12 years ago against the planned destruction of the landmarked Hayden Planetarium, which was supported falsely by Neil Tyson.

It was fake science, just as this particular plan is based on fake science.

That planetarium did not have to be torn down. The Adler Planetarium in Chicago with about 10, \$12 million saved their building, added

everything to it that the present new \$230 million

Rose Planetarium has for -- without destroying the

landmark.

Tyson provided the fake science that got that plan put through and it also gave the Roses a very healthy tax write-off and their name on the building. The same thing is going to happen. We hope it won't happen and if everybody here keeps doing what they're doing, we will stop it.

Margaret Mead was my professor and advisor.

Carlin Turnbull, who did the
African exhibit, was my colleague.

Malcolm Arth, who started the program of film here, was the first person who hired me to teach Anthropology at Adelphi University.

I took may students through this Museum. I don't love it. I like it. It provides a very good service but it is by no means, by no means absolutely necessary to do what needs to be done about teaching evolution and anthropology.

In my classrooms I was able to

teach much of what they're talking about doing with plaster casts of Neanderthal, Cromagnon and Homoerectus and a number of other finds, which have come up in subsequent years.

They do not have to do this to continue to do the particular functions which they have been doing. There are plenty of institutions that do the same thing.

There has been not a single person from the staff of this Museum who has shown up at any of these meetings to say that they need what they want to do. This is Ellen Fodder, who wants a big party space. That's what she wanted. She thought she'd get it with the Planetarium and now she needs more.

I implore you to not do this, to let this happen.

And I will use the name of Margaret Mead, whose name is out in that park, she would not have proposed nor supported this in any way, shape or fashion.

(Applause.)

MR. CASTRO: All right.

Isabella Duncan;

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2 Susan Grausman; and,

Janne Applebaum.

4 MS. GRAUSMAN: Is Isabella here?

5 I'm Susan Grausman.

MR. CASTRO: Go ahead.

7 MS. GRAUSMAN: Okay.

MR. CASTRO: You can go.

MS. GRAUSMAN: I'm Susan

10 Grausman, G-r-a-u-s-m-a-n.

I'm a resident of 81st Street

12 | since 1983.

I just have a couple of

14 questions. Everything's been said that I would

15 have said.

16 One thing I want to say is,

17 | follow the money. Who's profiting from this?

18 | That's a question that we all should, you know, get

19 answered. Who is really profiting from this?

20 And the other thing is, I lived

21 through that planetarium nightmare construction

22 because I lived directly across the street on the

23 seventh floor. I looked right into it.

24 And all the things that the

25 museum promised at that moment never took place. I

went to plenty of meetings. They promised the world. We won't destroy the neighborhood. We won't -- that 81st Street where I lived since 1983, is a nightmare from Monday to Friday with the school buses and the tourist buses.

And the fact that if anyone has a heart attack on that block, they're dead because nobody can get through there. I work at home. I see it every single day.

I've been to the police precinct several times complaining. One of the buses hit our car that was legally parked on 81st Street, smashed right into it one day when they were making their turn into the Museum.

They have not figured out a way to manage these buses at all, which they said they would do on whatever year they build this monstrosity across the street.

So how are they possibly going to figure out what to do with 750,000 additional people coming on buses from all over the place?

It's not safe now and it's going to be even worse for all these blocks around the Museum.

There is no way they can figure

out by changing the traffic lights. I mean I cross there all the time, you take your life in your hands between the bike lanes and the buses and everything else. You can't safely move across those streets. And I think that the Museum better take a look at that.

The other thing about the Planetarium, they light it up at night. I look at it. It's red. It's green. It's purple. All hours of the night those lights are on. And if they do that here, I don't happen to live across, I mean, I'm on 81st, I'm not on 79th but I feel sorry for the people who live there because it's going to be three times as big and more lights.

And the other big problem is the environment and what they're going to be using during construction in terms of digging up all these poisonous toxic things that will poison the neighborhood for "three to five years," or ten years.

And then after the fact, if this ever gets done, which hopefully it won't, the air conditioning and heating of a glass building, what's going into the air for our environment, not

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just on the west side but the whole City, is absolutely unbelievable and unacceptable for anybody, let alone a museum like this.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CASTRO: Janne Applebaum;

Isabella Duncan.

MS. APPLEBAUM: Hi, everybody.

Can you hear me?

VOICES: Yes.

12 MS. APPLEBAUM: I'm Janne

13 Applebaum, that's J-a-n-n-e, pronounced Jan.

14 Applebaum, A-p-p-l-e-b-a-u-m.

I live in the neighborhood. I've got a Community United tee shirt on but I'm really here as a private citizen.

I want to preface my comments by saying that this matter, like other matters in current events involving politics, power, hubris and greed, will be adjudicated in the courts. And to that end, I urge everyone to get the word out, please donate so that we can pay Michael Hiller, who is a powerhouse.

(Applause.)

MS. APPLEBAUM: Our hope lies in the courts. This is all great. The comments are great. Everybody has pretty much covered the waterfront. I agree with everything.

But, you know, I'm also cringing a little bit because it's the comments that were said here, which are important and valid and true, also garner us as NIMBYS, the title of NIMYBS.

We get this backlash in the press. Oh, they're a bunch of NIMBYs, they got Central Park over there. The general population in New York and beyond doesn't really get it.

On my way here, I was stopped -I wasn't stopped but there were kids out there
campaigning for some candidate for office and saw
my tee shirt and said, oh, we agree with you. We
agree with you. And I look at them in their tee
shirt and said that puzzles me because your guy
voted as a Community Board 7 member, for the Museum
expansion. And he said, no, he didn't. I said, I
beg to differ but he did. Check your facts.

So I went and brought my dog up.

I was going to smuggle her in here but I realized

2 -- in my little stroller, that would be wrong, just 3 like this is wrong. I know right from wrong.

So on my way back, the young fellow said, you know what? You were right. You were right but he didn't take any -- he's not corrupt. I'm like, boy, the bar has really sunk pretty low if not taking money and if not pocketing money is -- is the criteria for being voted into office -- I'm getting carried away. I'm getting carried away.

Just donate to the cause.

And on the toxicity thing, I spoke at a previous meeting about the zeolites that are in the local dog run and I wrote to various entities. I got nothing, nothing, nothing.

Every time I go there on a dusty day, I regret it because there's dust in my throat, there's dust on my clothes that won't brush off.

So do I really trust the powers that be? Oh, these toxic stuff, the lead and the mercury and the nickel, oh, we'll take care of, we'll take care of it. I don't buy it.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

2 MR. CASTRO: The next three:

3 Ronan Shatsky;

Mel Weymore; and,

Amy Wu.

MR. WEYMORE: No Ronan?

My name is Mel Weymore.

And I am both -- I'm wearing three hats; the first hat is as a 29-year resident of the Upper West Side, the second hat is as a long-standing 22-year member of Community Board 7, and the third hat is as a candidate for New York City Council, the candidate that Janne, with two n's and an e, just mentioned.

I'm actually speaking not as a Community Board member or as a resident so much as a candidate in this race.

I have a few things to say but I want to preface my remarks with the fact that I love the Natural History Museum. I've raised two children in this community. We spent almost every weekend roaming the halls of the Museum and strolling through the park. That was very precious time for me and I will always look at it as very important to the growth of my children.

But I want to make four points.

The first point is, I feel it's absolutely unconscionable that there's not a public official in this room tonight.

(Applause.)

MR. WEYMORE: People who have allocated public funds need to be here to defend what they've -- what they've done.

But my second point goes exactly to that. When you have the public trust as an elected official and you are allocating massive public funds for a huge community project, it is your responsibility and your duty to ensure that there is public, full public input before that project gets public funds.

(Applause.)

MR. WEIMOR: If we had had public officials who had done that from the beginning, we wouldn't all be here tonight. Where we would be is in collaboration with the Museum around what's possible for the future of the Museum in a win-win situation for what supports the community, the City at large and the future students that will be going through this Museum. And the fact that we didn't

have that kind of public hearing before these public funds were allocated, is a shame and a travesty and costing a lot of us a lot of time and anger and potentially a lot of damage to our community.

Now in terms of the DEIS, I want to mention that really the focus has to be protecting our community on every detail, every aspect of this project needs to be mitigated 100 percent. And that's -- the devil is in the details with that. That requires the kind of input that we wanted in the first place.

And I will stand to protect this neighborhood.

But the final thing as I want to agree with Bill Routenbush, who spoke earlier about land use reform, we get caught as public citizens time and time again with our pants down when new developments come into our community without us knowing about it whatsoever. And it's even worse when they're publicly funded. We have to reform land use in this City. Real estate has to get mitigated, removed from the public process, removed from development.

So many of these buildings come up without any of us knowing about them, before it's long, long too late. We have to do that.

And I appreciate everyone in this room who's standing up against that kind of development. And we're going to make this Museum accountable for the impacts that it has on the community.

Thank you.

MS. WU: Hi. My name is Amy Wu.

I didn't plan on speaking today so I don't have anything prepared. I was actually going to go out and get something to eat so I'm really hungry. But walking out through that entrance, I was really compelled to come back in here and I really had to put in my voice and have another face so you know that there are people that really care about this park.

And just -- I'm not, I don't have children. I'm relatively new to the neighborhood. I've been here for three years but I walk through that park everyday, specifically that entrance on 79th Street. It is beautiful and I implore you to walk through that section and spend time there.

How the trees are positioned, how they unfold, the canopy, it is magical and I walk through there every day to and from work. And many people that are west of 77th and south of 77th walk through that entrance every single day and it is an amazing respite from and to the office.

And so maybe we're not all here, maybe we have other plans and we care and we will notice the difference.

And I'm not even talking about the inconvenience during the construction. I'm saying they're going to notice the permanent change to that area and they're going to be upset. And I think it's particularly shameful that the American Museum of Natural History is proposing such a stripping of public land when there's so few green spaces in New York City and I really implore you to not be just as shameful and make them stop.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. CASTRO: All right.

Our final three speakers:

Ronan Shatsky;

Alida Davis -- Davies, excuse me;

and,

It looks like Diana Ross.

4 MS. DAVIES: Hi. I'm Alida

5 Davies. I've lived here about 25 years, but that's

6 not the point.

The point is, everybody's made very, very good points. But the fundamental thing is, the name of this is the Center for Innovation blah, blah, blah. And yet, the design that we've been presented as a fait accompli, is -- could have been designed in the 1960s.

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIES: It's a block of concrete and then all around it, it's designed to accommodate cars and buses? There's nothing in this design that distinguishes this from something that was built in the 1960s. There's nothing innovative about it at all.

Everybody has pointed out different aspects of this that give the lie to the stated purpose and need for this. So that it becomes obvious it's just a folly, a vanity, an ego thing.

Here's the deal. You cannot -- I

know, everybody has already said this. If this really were to be an expression of innovation and technology and education and the future, the design would reflect that. Is this a LEED building? Is this a LEED Platinum building? No? Not even a LEED Gold? Are you kidding me?

This is New York City. This is the American Museum of Natural History, the world is going to look at this. This is going to represent us.

This -- if they are going to do anything, it has to be amazingly creative, amazingly innovative, something that everyone can be proud of. And the way to do that is, if they want to do something, as everyone has pointed out and as an architect pointed out in an earlier one of these things and went into way more detail than I could, about how the many ways that a truly creative architect could make this happen without taking an inch of our green space.

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIES: On top of everything else, we'll be a laughing stock to the world. This is going to be reviewed. This is New York City.

This is the American Museum of Natural History.

Nobody is going to look at this and not derisively laugh the way it is now.

And one other thing I just want to point out and people have pointed out the toxic blah blah and the rats, but I have to tell you, I don't think you really understand what that means.

I live on 82nd Street, about a block, an avenue away from me, they redid the building, like everything's turning into multi-million dollar co-ops; right. So when they did that, and as I've said, I've lived here many years, never had -- never had -- never had a rodent, never even had, you know, a roach.

Well, when they started digging underneath, two years everyone on the block -- and probably around that too, I didn't know that many people around there, but I had -- I live on the third floor. I had mice in my apartment on the third floor. They came and they tried plugging things, they kept trying to -- you cannot keep -- they unleashed an onslaught. They were everywhere. It was unbelievable. I had rats -- I had stains on shoes and handbags from rat urine; I'd wake up in

the morning and I'd see yellow dots on things.

I would go into my pocket, oh, I

left some crumbs in the pocket and now there's -
they crawled up and were eating the stuff in my

pocket. And there's nothing you can do about it.

About two years later finally, long after they finished, they disappeared. When they're ready to go, they will eventually go. But while they are here, there's nothing you can do about it. Everybody -- including the Museum.

Remember when Anna Wintour wouldn't go into her office because there were rats in the new building. Everybody read about that. There's going to be rats everywhere.

(Laughter.)

MS. DAVIES: So anyway, if -- if obviously the people who are doing this are not up to the task of the innovation this calls for, back to the drawing board, as somebody said.

(Applause.)

MR. CASTRO: Okay.

MS. ROSS: Hello.

My name's Diana Ross. Yes,

nobody say anything.

2 (Laughter.)

MR. ROSS: What I want to say is

4 -- I was born in the City. I was raised in the

5 City and I've been in this neighborhood working and

6 living since 1963.

And what I saw in 1963, I was working across from where they were building Lincoln Center. And at the time, I thought, wow, that's a big mess over there. And I didn't see the vision that they, you know, I had no way of knowing what it would do with the neighborhood.

The neighborhood became nice. It became safe. It wasn't safe back then and all kinds of good things happened, you know, with that. And it's obviously a big success.

Here -- and they tore down stuff that it wasn't a park. It was just, you know, a mess over there.

Anyway -- so, but what I want to say is that these construction projects and this kind of cultural project could be so much better served in the City of New York if it was to be located in the Bronx.

(Applause.)

MS. ROSS: That is where you need culture. Those people, and I was born in the Bronx, we were isolated. We knew nothing about, you know, unless you knew something about the museums that were here, if your parents didn't guide you, there was nothing there. There's still nothing there really, you know, not very much.

And by the way, not to enforce this but there is plenty of parks in the Bronx that are not being used. So I'm not saying we should do that but if they want to take away a park, this tiny little park is not going to do much for them.

And furthermore, I live here now and the biggest thing that happened in the time that I lived here is that they changed the time of the Thanksgiving Day Parade blowups to earlier, to like 7:00. So that now the streets are mobbed. You can't -- one year I couldn't get my car out -- into the street. It was so bad and that is -- was kind of a harbinger for what's happened here.

You know, this neighborhood is already overcrowded with events and, you know, museums and all kinds of cultural stuff, which I love but I think it would be better for the City,

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for the people who live in the City to move it elsewhere and there's no reason not to do it. And I think the Bronx would be so happy if they were to build such a thing in the Bronx. It is so abandoned.

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8 MS. ROSS: Thank you.

9 MS. COBB KONON: Thank you.

I wanted to check if there were

(Applause.)

any other speaker cards in the back?

12 A VOICE: No.

MS. COBB KONON: No. Okay.

14 Thank you, everyone.

Thank you so much for coming tonight and for sharing your comments.

17 It's now 8:54 p.m.

If there are no longer any people who would like to speak tonight who have not yet

done so, this public meeting on the Draft

21 Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed

22 | Gilder Center is now closed.

23 Please -- please remember that

24 the public comment period for the Draft EIS will

remain open until 5:00 p.m. on June 26th, 2017 and

	1	1		June 13, 201
	156:11	56:15;86:13;132:3;	111:14;118:11;	allow (5)
\$	accordance (1)	136:13	130:23;135:12;	43:2,21;80:23;97:3;
Ψ	8:24	addressing (1)	141:22;153:19;163:4	102:22
\$100 (1)	according (1)	86:10	against (11)	allowed (5)
67:12	36:10	adds (1)	61:9,10,11;83:12;	89:4;102:11,12;
\$12 (1)	account (4)	19:12	86:25;91:14;116:7;	114:11;135:8
142:25	17:12;19:7;36:22;	Adelphi (1)	139:2,18;142:18;	allows (1)
<b>\$140 (2)</b>	37:9	143:18	154:6	45:14
95:3;97:13	accountability (1)	adequate (1)	age (2)	almost (5)
\$230 (1)	107:18	35:9	66:17;84:20	49:13;53:20;
143:2	accountable (1)	adequately (1)	agencies (3)	134:21,22;151:21
\$325 (1)	154:8	37:20	10:11;17:24;20:5	alone (4)
75:18	accounting (2)	adjacencies (1)	agency (6)	47:15;69:20;119:4;
<b>\$9</b> (1)	95:5;119:8	15:7	7:15;9:4;18:4;20:3;	148:4
65:9	accurate (3)	adjacent (2)	38:10;64:8	along (7)
\$900 (1)	25:19;27:24;135:24	51:13;57:10	ages (1)	33:23;49:23;70:15;
75:22	achieve (1)	adjudicated (1)	14:21	77:3;78:24;79:24;
	13:18	148:21	ago (10)	130:20
A	acknowledges (1) 69:13	Adler (1) 142:24	53:20,25;74:13;	Alpern (5)
	acre (1)	administration (1)	79:2,7;90:4;95:13; 96:7;104:12;142:18	48:2;50:11,12,25; 52:16
abandoned (1)	138:11	141:8	agree (7)	alternative (3)
162:6	acres (1)	admire (1)	79:22;90:7;124:23;	41:16,17;56:11
abatement (1)	40:19	106:25	149:5,18,19;153:17	alternatives (6)
59:18	across (12)	adult (5)	agreed (2)	17:22;19:23;21:6;
abide (1)	37:11;65:21;78:8;	122:7,8,10,10,16	89:18;105:8	42:10;117:15,16
86:3 <b>ability (3)</b>	79:20;87:17;88:5;	adults (2)	agreeing (1)	always (5)
38:10;95:18;135:19	120:9;145:22;146:19;	14:22;122:10	66:22	78:3;85:7;109:12;
able (5)	147:5,12;160:8	advance (2)	agreement (1)	121:11;151:24
62:24;75:9;105:14;	Act (1)	39:9;73:18	66:24	ALYSSA (2)
141:14;143:25	17:10	advancing (1)	ahead (6)	1:21;7:10
above (3)	action (1)	73:23	44:20;58:11;77:10;	amazed (1)
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