
FOUR PRINCIPLES FOR THE MEMORIAL PROGRAM

*The following four principles,
grouped under two main headings,
were developed by a task force of
family members of those killed in the September 11 attack
and local community members who live or work
in the area surrounding the World Trade Center site.*

December 16 2002

Sponsored by the Office of Alan J. Gerson
New York City Council Member
Chair, Select Committee on the Redevelopment of Lower Manhattan

Organized and Facilitated by
New York Chapter American Institute of Architects
and
New York New Visions
a pro bono consortium of
architects, planners, engineers and designers

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Patty West, *Director, Communication and Special Events, NYC AIA*

Workshop Participants

The following individuals volunteered to participate in the workshops. Not all were able to attend all meetings due to scheduling, but we would like to thank everyone who attended for their willingness to listen, to discuss and to help plan for how best to memorialize this tragic event and reknit the fabric of the community.

Family members

Bruce DeCell
Michael Dempsey
Monica Gabrielle
Monica Iken
Michael Kuo
Louise LoPresti
Jack Lynch
Christopher Reedman
Patricia Reilly
Nikki Stern
Charles Wolf

Residents

Marc Ameruso
Letitia Cortes
Paul Glass
Betty Heller
Sudhir Jain
Noel Jefferson
Tim Lannan
Tammy Meltzer
Ginger Miles

Pat Moore
Anthony Notaro
George Olsen
John Ost
Nancy Owens
Una Perkins
Pamela Sipos
Paul Sipos
Dave Stanke

Facilitators

Diana Balmori
Anne Marie Baronowsky
Elena Brescia
Krista Briese
Anthony Cohen
Bobby Evron
Judith Heinz
Marian Imperatore

Holly Leight
Kim Mathews
Jerry Maltz
Rivka Mazar
Andy Moore
Louis Nelson
Tina Oin
Cindy Ogrin

Na Nancy Owens
Ge George Penesis
John Ratliff
Mitch Silver
Laura Starr
Kevin Tolan
Tucker Vermeister
Annette Wilkus

Introduction

In August 2002, Alan J. Gerson, New York City Council Member and Chair of the Select Committee on the Redevelopment of Lower Manhattan, asked the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the pro bono civic group New York New Visions to organize and facilitate a series of workshops.

These interactive meetings were arranged to involve family members who lost loved ones in the September 11 attacks and community residents who have been severely impacted following the attacks. Previous participatory events had for the most part involved members of each group alone, and a lack of communication between these groups was seen as one of the problems in finding agreed direction as to how to move forward.

The charge of the workshops was simple—to define areas of ‘common ground’ between these two groups who have shared so much pain and hardship in recent months.

However, as others involved in the post-9/11 rebuilding effort will testify, this simple charge represents a difficult task.

These workshops revealed that just talking about the events and their aftermath opened the door for a range of emotions that made it hard to focus on the task at hand, what to do next. At the same time, however, we found that this very passion drives a clear and common shared vision-- that only the very highest quality development, tested in the crucible of open debate, will satisfy concerns for proper memorialization and rapid community rebirth.

Three workshops were held, in September, October, and November 2002, to which fifty participants were invited—equal numbers of family members and community residents, assisted by volunteer facilitator- designers. Breaking down into small groups, attendees at each meeting engaged in candid and heartfelt discussions regarding uses on the site and potential development.

The results are summarized in these four principles, which represent the final meeting’s consensus as to a framework for the memorial and site development process. These ideas belong to the participants in these workshops, and should not be credited to the sponsors, organizers or facilitators. Nor do they necessarily represent the views of all family members and residents.

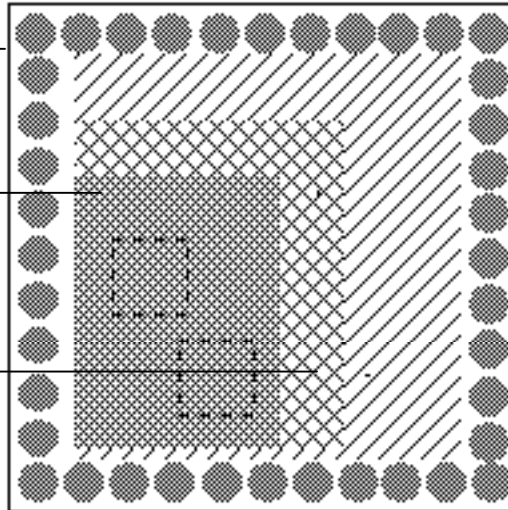
What they do represent is a record of progress in listening to each others’ perspectives, learning from discussion, and applying this knowledge to a positive common agenda for integrated site development.

Given such results, the workshops have to be gauged a success.

Definition of the site as hallowed ground

*1
Tower footprints and surrounding area as 'sacred space'*

*2
Adjacent site area programmed as 'living memorial':
cultural/ civic activities
in context of appropriate
commercial/ transportation
development*



THE WTC SITE AS 'HALLOWED GROUND'

In principle, the tower related area of the site should be reserved as 'sacred space', containing contemplative memorial facilities such as green space, chapel/ meditation center, and education/ museum space. In addition to 'living memorial' cultural and public uses on the remaining seven acres, development may contain appropriately designed and programmed transportation, commercial, retail (but no vendors) and other mixed-use development-- allowing more definition and control of visual ambiance than existing uses on the site's perimeter. This memorial portion of the site should be dedicated to healing not sorrow, both a joyous affirmation of lives lost and an opportunity for sober contemplation of the multiple meanings of the event.

1 SACRED SPACE

Site development should designate the specific 'bathtub area' (where most remains were found, including but not limited to the footprints of the towers and the Marriott Hotel) as 'sacred space', dedicated to the memory of those who perished in the attack as well as those who survived

This memorial space should include a more private enclave for meditation, serving family members and survivors with limited public access, possibly at a different elevation (above or below the ground level public open space). The memorial should feature names of victims, an explanation of the attack and its significance, lessons learned (such as building safety and the need for vigilance), and a history of the site itself, possibly including a description of events from multiple points of view – office workers, residents, rescuers, families – stressing both diversity and unity. Towers of light could be a recurring feature. .

2 LIVING MEMORIAL

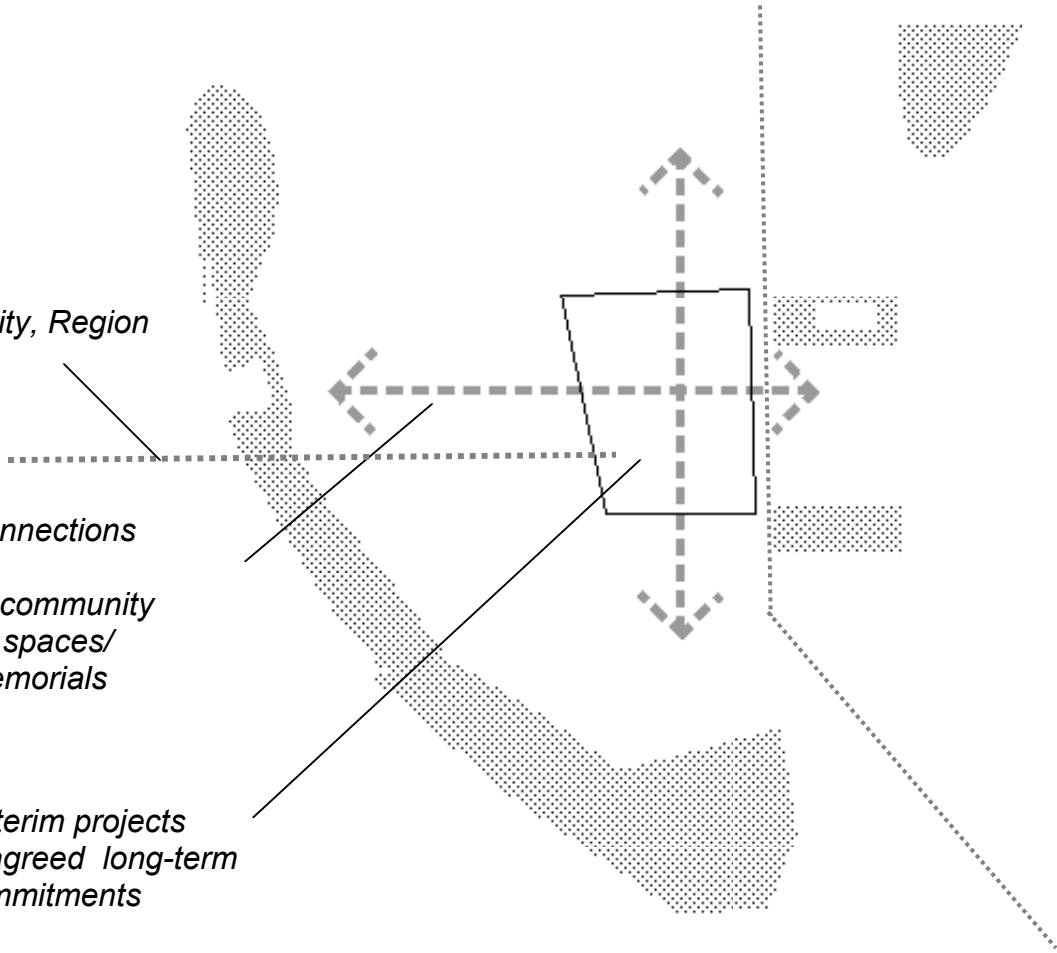
Equally important, the site should be also developed in part as a 'living memorial', demonstrating resilience of spirit, featuring uses serving the enduring community and city.

These uses, focused on balancing memorialization with continuity of life, may include cultural activities such as concert, museum or library space. (The Cathedral of St John the Divine or the district surrounding London's Prince Albert Memorial Hall may be comparable models) Development should also include uses needed by neighbors, office workers and visitors to the WTC site, such as appropriately designed and located retail space and facilities for community services, as well as on or off-site residential development. Building should contribute as a symbol to the skyline but need not replicate the Towers' height with habitable space. Signage and boundary marking should make clear that one is at Ground Zero, using landscape design tools such as a perimeter of trees or special lighting.

*Links to
Community, City, Region*

*3
Pedestrian connections
through site
to waterfront, community
Links to open spaces/
network of memorials*

*4
Creation of interim projects
in context of agreed long-term
plans and commitments*



THE SITE'S CONTEXT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Memorial and site development should take place in the framework of the infrastructure and public space network of the Lower Manhattan community, the city and the region.

3 LINKED PUBLIC PLACES

In terms of physical pattern, development should integrate with the -continuity of the community fabric, through a network of pedestrian and visual corridors, spaces and venues.

Pedestrian routes, flanked by associated adjacent uses, should link neighborhoods to the north, east, west and south, connecting sequences of public park / plaza / recreation spaces and networks of memorial and cultural buildings and locations. Except for handicapped access and delivery, vehicular access through the site should be restricted. The site should be closely tied to other surrounding public spaces such as the Winter Garden and the waterfront. The design of West Street must not further divide Battery Park City from Lower Manhattan. Related memorials can occur throughout Lower Manhattan, New York City and the region, with linkages represented by clear graphics.

4 INFRASTRUCTURE AND MEMORIAL

Priority infrastructure and uses must be re-established to respond to immediate memorial needs, to restore surrounding community function and to maintain larger city economic balance.

This must include integrated, simultaneous creation of interim memorial venues, re-establishment of key transportation and infrastructure linkages (both beneath and adjacent to the site), and provision of missing or compromised services and commercial/ retail activity. While interim needs must be met as priorities, these 'temporary' facilities must not be allowed to become an inadequately designed or poorly funded permanent presence—site development must 'do it right' from the beginning, including both short-term and long-term programs and elements. Issues such as PATH rail location, intermodal station, bus access and visitor/ commuter circulation must be resolved to co-exist with the memorial and footprint site. In principle, underground passageways or other connections are acceptable, but should not conflict with the concept of 'sacred space' described above. Plans should consider the arrival of visitors to the site by PATH train or other regional transit, with buses or cars parked at stations in New Jersey (Journal Square or Hoboken) or other sites, rather than in underground parking garages on-site or in the adjacent residential and office neighborhoods.

