

ABOUT THE GARDEN AND FRIENDS OF ELIZABETH STREET GARDEN

Elizabeth Street Garden is a unique community park and green space with sculptures and artifacts located in the Little Italy neighborhood of Manhattan, between Prince and Spring streets. City-owned and privately leased, the Garden is open to the public year round, weather permitting. Garden volunteers provide free public programming with educational, wellness and arts-related events for children, seniors and all who live and work in the community. The Garden's design, size and configuration make it ideally suited for movies, music, yoga, community festivals, arts performances, educational programs, gardening and quiet meditation that are not offered in any other nearby public community space. *Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the mission to preserve the Garden as a unique public green, open space and NYC Park in perpetuity.*

WHY THE GARDEN SHOULD BE SAVED

DEMONSTRATED NEED FOR OPEN SPACE

- The Garden is located in the only downtown Manhattan neighborhood that the NYC Parks Department identifies as “underserved” by open space.
- Little Italy and SoHo provide only 3 sq ft. of park space per person (the size of a subway seat!) vs. the City planning goal of 109 sq. ft. All of the neighborhood’s parks are paved, except for the planted medians that the City counts as “parks” on Houston Street.

SPURA SIDE DEAL HAD NO PUBLIC REVIEW & IGNORES PAST COMMITMENTS FOR OPEN SPACE

- Elizabeth Street Garden was included in a behind-the-scenes side deal tied to the 2012 SPURA rezoning on the Lower East Side and in Community Board 3.
- There was no public review or discussion of this side deal, despite an extensive process of community involvement in CB 3 that began in 2008, nor was any attempt made to reach out to Community Board 2, where the Garden is located.

TREMENDOUS BASE OF LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Since learning about this side deal in 2013, Community Board 2 has held four public hearings where the overwhelming sentiment has been for saving the Garden.
- The Garden attracts 100,000 visitors per year and Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden has 7,500 newsletter subscribers, 5,500 letters of support and hundreds of volunteers.
- Supporters include Rep. Nydia Velazquez, Rep. Jerrold Nadler, State Sen. Brian Kavanagh, State Sen. Brad Hoylman, Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou, Assemblymember Deborah Glick, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, NYC Public Advocate Letitia James, District Leaders Vittoria Fariello and Paul Newell, Community Board 2, former State Sen. Daniel Squadron, former NYC Parks Comm. Adrian Benepe and 18 parks and community organizations listed at elizabethstreetgarden.org/supporters.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALTERNATIVES

- Community Board 2 has identified a nearby site on Hudson and Clarkson streets. The currently vacant lot can provide five times as much housing as the Elizabeth Street Garden site, without destroying a cherished and needed public amenity. The CB 2 proposed site would be developed as both housing and public open space, in cooperation with NYC HPD, DEP and Parks.

CITY CONTINUES TO IGNORE LOCAL COMMUNITY

- The City has spurned any collaboration. In December 2017, NYC Housing Preservation & Development [designated Pennrose](#) to develop the Garden site. HPD claimed to compromise by including some open space in the selected project. Approximately 25% of the proposed open space will be covered and nearly all of it will be in shadows as show in this [image](#).
- The compromise already occurred in 1981 when NYC sold 62% of the former school site to Little Italy Restoration Association for 152 units of affordable housing at 21 Spring St. and designated the Garden site “exclusively for recreational use.”

A BETTER ALTERNATIVE

WHY DESTROY ELIZABETH STREET GARDEN
WHEN THIS VACANT LOT WILL PROVIDE

5x AS MUCH HOUSING



WHY DESTROY NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SPACE FOR MUCH LESS HOUSING

- Why reduce local senior housing opportunities?
- Why is development only supported by Council Member Chin, while ignoring thousands of her constituents who support saving the Garden?
- Why won't Mayor de Blasio collaborate with Community Board 2 to find alternative sites for affordable housing?

388 HUDSON IS A BETTER ALTERNATIVE THAT:

- Provides 5x as much housing for local seniors.
- Will not be available if the Garden is developed.
- Is supported by nearly every local elected official.

