



COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
1664 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10035
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www.cb11m.org

Nilsa Orama
Chair

Angel D. Mescaín
District Manager

April 9, 2020

Mary Mattingly
Swale, LLC
Pier 4, Brooklyn Army Terminal
140 East 58th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11220

Dear Mary Mattingly,

Community Board 11 supports the proposed floating food forest as presented by SWALE and the Friends of the East River Esplanade to the Environment, Open Space & Parks Committee on March 5th, 2020, with the condition that SWALE incorporate East Harlem history and culture into the concept and naming of the barge.

Swale is a floating food forest built atop a 5,000 square foot barge that docks at piers throughout NYC and welcomes visitors to forage fruits and vegetables for free. The barge hosts tours, workshops, events, and welcomes around 500 visitors daily. SWALE, along with Friends of the East River Esplanade, are proposing a second barge that would remain stationed on the East River alongside Thomas Jefferson Park, making it easy for East Harlem and all New Yorkers to (re)connect with food, water, nature and art. SWALE hopes to enable East Harlem residents, particularly youth, to experience the joy of gardening and urban agriculture, while simultaneously purifying the water in the East River through an onboard filtering system.

We request that SWALE provide regular updates during the progression of the project and permitting process.

If you have any questions, please contact Carly Wine, our Assistant District Manager, at (212)831-8929 or cwine@cb11m.org.

Sincerely,

Nilsa Orama
Chair

cc: Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)
Hon. Ben Kallos, New York City Council (via email)

Hon. Diana Ayala, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Jose Serrano, New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. Robert Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, United States Congress (via email)
Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney, United States Congress (via email)
Steve Simon, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (via email)
Dr. Jennifer Ratner, Friends of the East River Esplanade (via email)
Meredith Bellew, Friends of the East River Esplanade (via email)
Denilyn Arciaga, Community Board 11 (via email)
Jessica Elliott, Community Board 11 (via email)