

*By Matthew Fenton*



According to Mr. Marte, developers Stellar Management and Vor-

Pointing to what may be his strongest weapon against the plan, Mr. Marte said, "member deference re-

“The Mayor has his philosophy on what New York should look like and feel like,” Mr. Marte said. “We disagree. If this goes to court, we have several strong arguments. There are only 16 buildings in all of New York that are 90 stories or taller. And the impacts would be significant for the Hudson River Park, Washington Market Park, the Borough of Man-

continued on page 2

opposition. **RENTAL** | homes (or roughly 6,000

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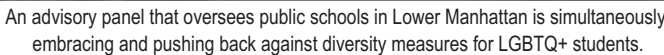
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*By Matthew Fenton*

The resolution concludes by urg-

This CEC measure debated in February said, “the District 2 Community Education Council condemns the hateful rhetoric and actions of Moms for Liberty” and “disavows any affiliation with, endorsement of, or support for Moms for Liberty.” This resolution was defeated, with five votes in support and six votes in opposition.

*By Matthew Fenton*

This ongoing meltdown has led to a scramble amid developers to repurpose moribund office properties, especially for residential use. Among recently announced conversions in Lower Manhattan are 222 Broadway, 55 Broad Street, 85 Broad Street, and 25 Water Street. Together, just these four properties are likely to bring more than 3,000 additional homes (or roughly 6,000

Praise the spells and bless the charms,  
I found April in my arms.  
April golden, April cloudy,  
Gracious, cruel, tender, rowdy;  
April soft in flowered languor,  
April cold with sudden anger,  
Ever changing, ever true —  
I love April, I love you.

— Ogden Nash

ices, finds that Lower Manhattan residents take a dim view of City Hall's performance in both categories. For the purposes of this analysis, titled "The 2023 New York City Resident Survey," Lower Manhattan is defined as Community District 1 (CD1)—essentially Manhattan south of Canal Street and the Brooklyn Bridge. Overall, only 41.6 percent of CD1 residents pronounced themselves satisfied with life in New York City. Drilling down at the community level, Lower Manhattan residents gave their home turf high marks in a handful of specific categories: the availability of subway service (70.3 percent), bus service (66.3 percent), garbage pickup (65.4 percent), public parks (72.1 percent), cultural activities (68.5 percent) and public libraries (61.8 percent). Less glowing were the reviews for other local metrics, like neighborhood public safety (45.3 percent responded positively), pedestrian safety (43 percent), neighborhood cleanliness (41.1 percent), street repair (36 percent), and bike safety (23.7 percent).

The burgeoning arts program on Governors Island has a new visionary-in-chief: Lauren Haynes, late of the Queens Museum, has been named the new Head Curator and Vice President for Arts and Culture; the Trust for Governors Island announced. Governors Island Arts, the program that Ms. Haynes will oversee, produces a range of cultural initiatives, including public art commissions (both long-term and temporary works from multidisciplinary artists that are sited throughout the island's landscapes); organizations in residence (an annual open call inviting cultural organizations to present seasonal exhibitions); and public programs, including free events presented in partnership with New York cultural organizations.

City Council member Christopher Marte is sponsoring two bills that, if enacted, would make Lower Manhattan (and the city as a whole) considerably more accommodating for bicyclists. The "Park Your Bike" bill would compel New York City's Parks Department to build sheltered bicycle parking stations in all parks with an area of 2.5 acres or greater. The second bill would require that city-owned buildings of at least 10,000 square feet make available bike storage space for staff and visitors.

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The Hull Shebang

DOWNTOWN AWASH  
IN A RAFT OF  
CURIOUS CRAFT

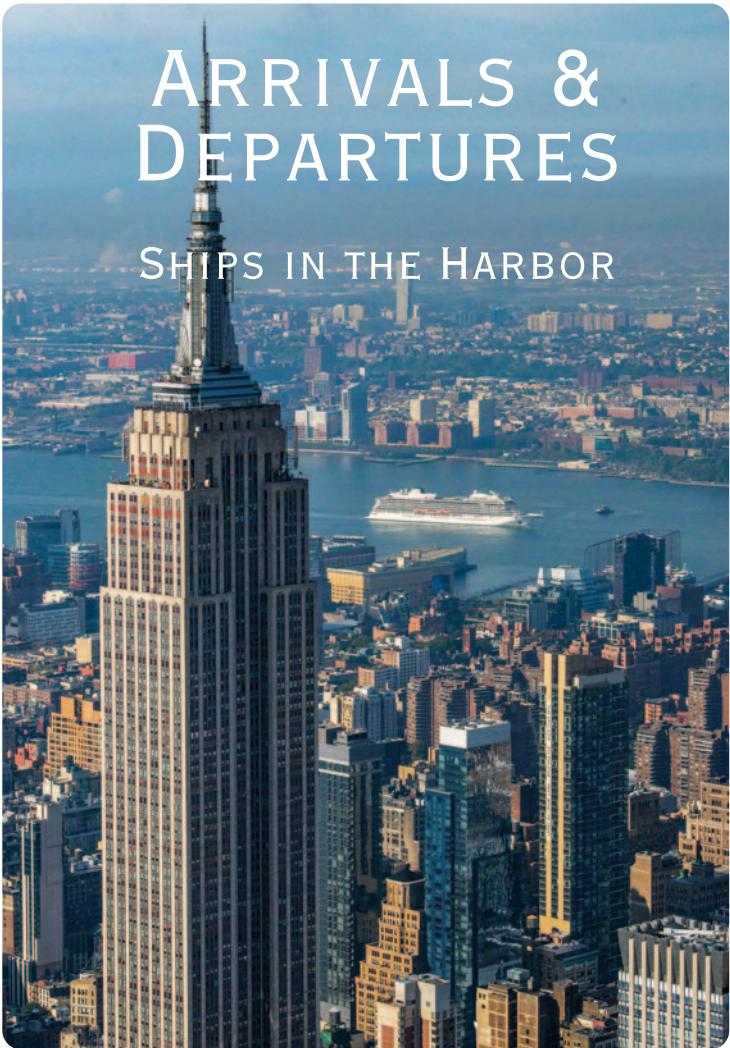
Lower Manhattan's shores will teem with notable boats in April.

*Ocantis* and *Polaris*, Viking sister ships, will arrive about a week apart: *Polaris* on April 8 and *Ocantis* on April 16. Although the name of the company might prompt one to picture ships of yore, these are high-tech expedition vessels from Viking Cruises that take adventurous travelers safely—and luxuriously—to remote destinations. Both accommodate 378 guests, with 256 crew members attending to day-to-day details.

Partnering with science organizations such as the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and University of Cambridge's Polar Research Institute, and often with research teams aboard, *Ocantis* and *Polaris* itineraries focus on exploration and learning. Regular routes include Antarctica and the Arctic Circle. Both vessels carry miniature submarines for underwater reconnaissance. The crew is trained to take great care. A recent review in *Global Traveler* even noted that outerwear had to be cleared with the ship's biosecurity staff before allowing travelers to step into a fragile environment.

This month, catering to those who prefer exploring more temperate waters, the ships will set out from the Hudson River for the St. Lawrence Seaway, making their way westward into the heart of North America to explore the Canadian coastlines of the Great Lakes.

Of course, the cruise industry is primarily focused on vacations for pure pleasure in a balmy climate, and on April 9 New Yorkers can salute the maiden arrival of the *Seven Seas Grandeur*, a ten-deck Regent Cruises ship that entered



A Viking ship heads north on the Hudson River. Photograph courtesy of Viking Cruises.

service in December. Her 750 guests are attended by a crew of 542 said to speak as many as 24 different languages.

The following day, just as *Seven Seas Grandeur* is setting sail for the Azores and the Iberian Peninsula, the world's first self-sufficient, zero-emission vessel, *Energy Observer*, will tie up in Battery Park City's North Cove Marina. This will mark the culmination of a seven-year, round-the-world voyage to raise awareness about deploying innovative technology to kickstart the energy transition toward renewables. *Energy Observer*, which is fueled in part by hydrogen generated onboard through seawater electrolysis, as well as by renew-



Route of a 21st-century Viking ship.

able energy systems of solar, wind, and hydropower, will be on view at North Cove through April 24.

And finally, the trans-Atlantic passage of *Grain de Sail 2*, a modern cargo sailboat skippered by adventurers out to prove that sustainable seafaring is possible, will be completed on April 12 when the wind-powered vessel docks at Pier 17, bearing wine from France that will end up in shops all over New York City. *Vive le vent!*

Loam Rangers

EARTH MONTH  
PROGRAMS GET  
YOUNG PEOPLE DIRTY

By Matthew Fenton



Rot stars: kids learn about soil in Earth Matter programs.

This month, Earth Month, several programs are being introduced that help young people interact with nature and gardening, and—especially for teenagers—guide them in meaningfully engaging in environmental resilience work and response to climate change.

The Waterfront Alliance is recruiting Youth Ambassadors for Adaptation and Resilience, a year-long program that will bring together students from high schools across New York City, training them to become good communicators and leaders in preparing their communities for climate hazards.

Interested students may apply by April 15 at [waterfrontalliance.org](http://waterfrontalliance.org). In-person orientation will take place Saturday, June 15, and will provide students with the first training on general emergency preparedness and extreme heat. After this, five workshops will take place during the 2024-2025 school year.

Earth Matter NY, a non-profit that seeks to reduce organic waste misdirected into the garbage stream, is offering multiple programs on Governors Island. The group's Com-

post Critters Club offers hands-on environmental learning for very young children, and aims to nurture lifelong habits in zero-waste practices, gardening, and seasonal eating. Another program, consisting of three-hour group sessions, is available for school and youth groups up to age 14. The curriculum will include soil science; composting and decomposers; planting, harvesting and preparing foods; and caring for farm animals, such as chickens and goats.

Earth Matter is also recruiting youth interns, ages 16 to 18, to learn hands-on, practical skills related to composting, animal husbandry, farming, resource recovery, and conservation. The internship consists of 80 hours between early June and late August. Applications are due by May 19.

Two other Earth Matter initiatives offer internships to applicants over the age of 18. The Zero Waste Island program seeks to implement sustainable closed-loop waste management practices, and drive down the waste generated on and exported from Governors Island. Participants (who will be awarded a

\$500 stipend after completing 200 hours of work) will conduct site visits and waste audits, engage in compostability experiments, lead tours, and complete a personal or group project, followed by a presentation of findings. The program runs from 9am through 2:30pm on Sundays, Mondays, and Fridays, for 15 weeks starting in late April and concluding in early August. For more information on any of these Earth Matter programs, please go to <https://earthmatter.org/>.

The annual Early Spring Children's Gardening program offered by the Battery Park City Authority begins April 9 and continues each Tuesday afternoon through the spring. Held at the Children's Garden in northern Rockefeller Park, this series is geared toward kids aged six to ten years, and invites digging, planting, and learning about green practices and composting. Participation is free, but registration is required. To enroll, email [registration@bpca.ny.gov](mailto:registration@bpca.ny.gov).



Digging in Rockefeller Park's Children's Garden.

‘We’re Going to Stand by You’

continued from front page

hattan Community College, and P.S. 234, all of which are close by.”

Tribeca resident Stephanie Kelemen, who spoke after Mr. Marte, began by asking, “raise your hand if you think this proposed tower is a bad idea.” Most of the assembled crowd lifted their arms.

“Nobody who lives in Tribeca likes this project,” she said. “But I’m here today to ask you how much you don’t like it. We’re in a new era of urban development. New York City is not just the City of Yes. It is the City of Anything Goes, where our policymakers are handing out pieces of our City like a fifth grader handing out brownies when running for student council. It’s winner-take-all, get-it-while-you-can, and it’s corrupt. Our sunlight, our open spaces, our peace, are all up for grabs, unless we fight.”

“This is a time as a community to come together and decide that this is something we care about,” Ms. Kelemen continued. “We’re going to have to fight for it. They don’t think it matters that we spent years building this community. They don’t think it matters if our culture and our history are washed away.”

“A cookie-cutter, luxury condo skyscraper is not going to do anything to solve the problems we are facing today,” she said. “Our goal is to form an organization that represents the community, with cohesive opposition, where all of our resources are pooled. We are creating a not-for-profit group with a leadership board that represents the entire community.”

The board of this group is slated to include Ms. Kelemen, longtime Independence Plaza tenant leader

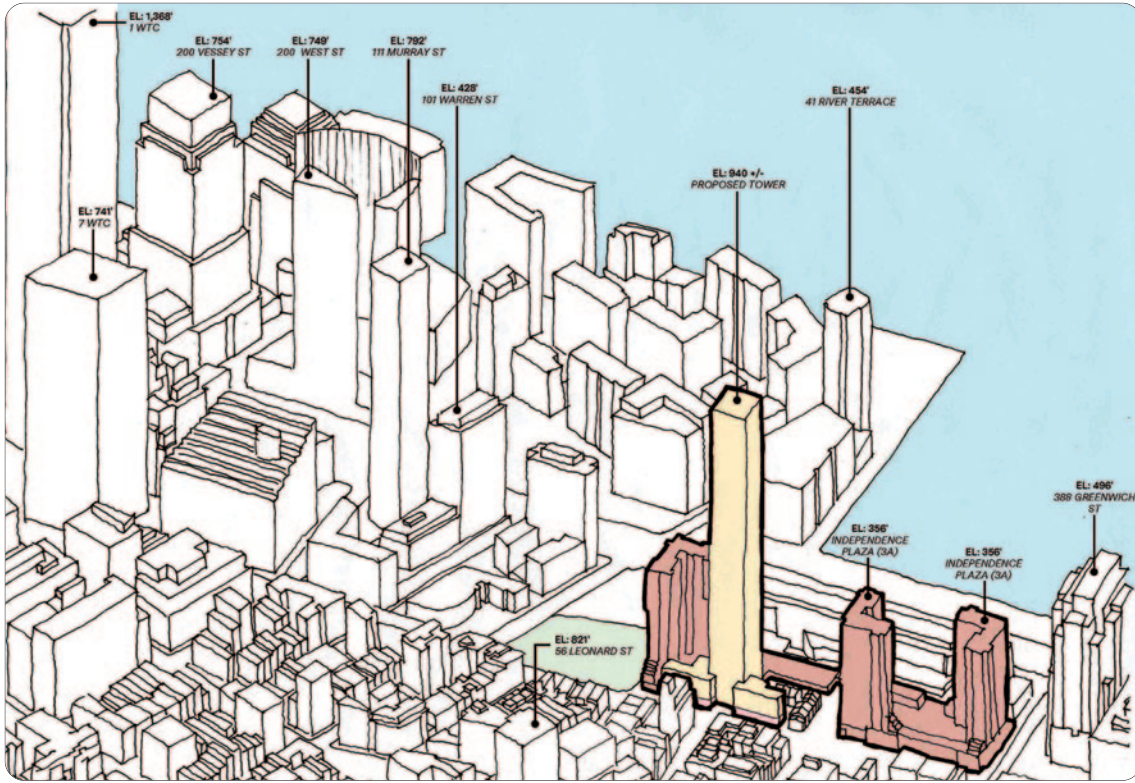
Diane Lapson, and Tribeca resident Richard Corman, who serves on Community Board 1 and is president of the Downtown Independent Democrats political organization. Anyone interested in participating in the group may contact Mr. Marte’s office at [District1@ council.nyc.gov](mailto:District1@ council.nyc.gov).

A spokesman for the developer responds, “the project will make significant improvements to the streetscape, open space, and retail frontage at Independence Plaza, as well as create significant market rate and affordable housing.” The same representative contends that the proposal does not require approval by the City’s Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, which would mean bypassing the City Council. Even if

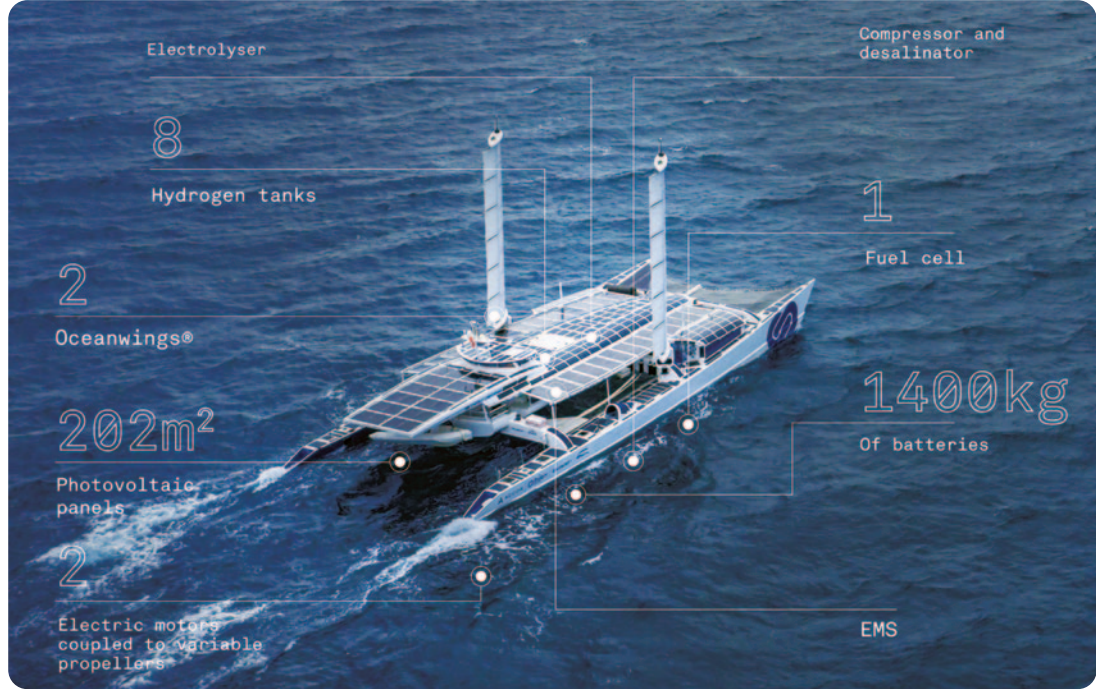
this is the case, it must still meet the requirements of the LSRD and the City’s Environmental Quality Review, which may provide opportunities for oversight and modification of the plan.



The leaders of a new community group formed to oppose the plan for a 900-foot tower in Tribeca (from left to right): Stuart Gold, Diane Lapson, City Council member Christopher Marte, Stephanie Kelemen, and Richard Corman.



The sketch above illustrates the comparative height of the new tower planned for the Independence Plaza complex in Tribeca. Its 940-foot elevation would make it the second tallest building in Lower Manhattan (trailing only One World Trade Center) and a mere 100 feet shorter than the Chrysler Building.



Ship of the future: Technologies found on board the *Energy Observer* combine the renewable energy systems of solar, wind, hydropower, and above all, hydrogen. The vessel also relies on a range of energy storage devices and batteries.

MANY SHIPS NAVIGATE THROUGH NEW YORK HARBOR ON THEIR WAY TO AND FROM THE MIDTOWN PASSENGER SHIP TERMINAL, CAPE LIBERTY CRUISE PORT IN BAYONNE, NJ, AND THE DOCKS IN RED HOOK, BROOKLYN. THESE ESTIMATED TIMES ARE BASED ON SIGHTING HISTORIES, PUBLISHED SCHEDULES, AND INTUITION. THEY ARE ALSO SUBJECT TO TIDES, FOG, WINDS, FREAK WAVES, HURRICANES, AND THE WHIMS OF UPPER MANAGEMENT.

DATE	SHIP	ARRIVING	DEPARTING	DOCK	DESTINATION
Apr. 8	<i>Norwegian Escape</i>	N/A	4:45 pm	Manhattan	Spain/France/Italy
Apr. 8	<i>Viking Polaris</i>	N/A	N/A	Manhattan	Canada
Apr. 9	<i>Norwegian Joy</i>	N/A	4:45 pm	Manhattan	Bermuda
Apr. 9	<i>Seven Seas Grandeur</i>	8:15 am		Manhattan	In port overnight
Apr. 10	<i>Seven Seas Grandeur</i>		4:45 pm	Manhattan	Azores/Portugal
Apr. 10	<i>Energy Observer</i>	N/A		North Cove	
Apr. 12	<i>Grain de Sail 2</i>	N/A		Pier 17, South Street Seaport	
Apr. 14	<i>Anthem of the Seas</i>	5:30 am	3:30 pm	Bayonne	Bahamas
Apr. 14	<i>Norwegian Joy</i>	6:15 am	4:45 pm	Manhattan	Bermuda
Apr. 15	<i>Carnival Venezia</i>	7:15 am	4:45 pm	Manhattan	Bermuda
Apr. 16	<i>Viking Ocantis</i>	N/A	N/A	Manhattan	Canada
Apr. 18	<i>MSC Meraviglia</i>	6:30 am	4:30 pm	Brooklyn	Bermuda
Apr. 19	<i>Norwegian Getaway</i>	6:15 am	4:45 pm	Manhattan	Eastern Caribbean
Apr. 21	<i>Anthem of the Seas</i>	5:30 am	3:30 pm	Bayonne	Bahamas
Apr. 21	<i>Norwegian Joy</i>	6:15 am	4:45 pm	Manhattan	Bermuda

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