

Lincoln Center

Lincoln Center Announces Design Team To Reimagine Amsterdam Avenue Side of Its Campus

**Hood Design Studio, Weiss/Manfredi, and Moody Nolan Will Develop
Design Ideas Based on Feedback from Thousands of New Yorkers**

Initiative Continues Series of Bold Investments in the Vibrancy of NYC

QUOTE SHEET

Lincoln Center Leadership

“We couldn’t be more excited to partner with these great architects and our west side neighbors to reimagine the west side of Lincoln Center’s campus, creating a new and vibrant park – a world class outdoor performing arts venue for the enjoyment of all New Yorkers and our visitors from around the world,” said **Steven R. Swartz, Chair of the Board of Directors of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.**

“Since its creation, the Lincoln Center campus has been one of New York City’s crown jewels, and after months of extensive community engagement and outreach, our expert design team is prepared to ensure that all of our neighbors feel truly welcome here,” said **Katherine Farley, Member and Chair Emeritus of the Board of Directors of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.** “Hood Design Studio, Weiss/Manfredi, and Moody Nolan have tremendous experience adapting outdoor performance spaces to communities’ needs. Together, they are well-equipped to incorporate community feedback into a reimagined west Lincoln Center campus.”

“For too long, our campus has sent a message of exclusion to our neighbors to the west,” said **Henry Timms, President and CEO of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.** “But the arts must be for all. We are proud to be working alongside so many of our neighbors on this project and look forward to what this phenomenal design team will bring to this reimagining.”

“Lincoln Center’s programming initiatives are just one aspect of the work we do,” said **Shanta Thake, Ehrenkranz Chief Artistic Officer at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.** “Our work in bringing the best and brightest performing artists from across the world to New York needs additional foundations, and this project is reflective of that reality and our values to serve artists of all genres and audiences from across New York City.”

“Our priorities express our values and define what kind of an institution Lincoln Center is,” said **Leah C. Johnson, Executive Vice President & Chief Communications,**

Marketing, and Advocacy Officer at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. “This project is intended to put access to our campus and our offerings first. As we heard again and again throughout this process, our nearest neighbors want the ability to enter and enjoy the offerings of Lincoln Center as much as anyone and inviting them into this process directly reinforces the work of our artistic mission and our civic responsibility to this city. By moving forward on this project, we are reinforcing our dedication to all New Yorkers.”

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF)

“A thriving public space is one that people can continuously make and remake their own. Lincoln Center is working to ensure that this is doubly true: first, in the participatory design process, then in reimagined spaces that will meet real community needs and welcome all to enjoy the arts,” said **SNF Co-President Andreas Dracopoulos**. “SNF is immensely proud to support this journey toward Lincoln Center’s inclusive future.”

Upper West Side Community Members

“Manhattan Community Board 7 has greatly appreciated the constant communication, attentiveness to local voices, and partnership demonstrated by Lincoln Center throughout this process,” said **Beverly Donohue, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 7**. “We have long advocated for a more welcoming and accessible Lincoln Center, and we look forward to continuing to support this initiative.”

“For too long the wall along Amsterdam Avenue has served as a barrier to our communities, but Lincoln Center’s participatory planning process has been transparent, accessible, and open to all, especially Amsterdam Houses residents who have not historically been part of such engagement,” said **Yvette Powell, Tenant Association President, Amsterdam Houses**. “As we continue to participate in this process, we are excited to create a shared future and new generation of Lincoln Center artists and audiences.”

“Throughout this participatory planning process, Lincoln Center has shown that they value our voices and partnership on this project,” said **Maria Guzman, Tenant Association President, Harborview Terrace**. “Our residents have been able to share our honest thoughts and perspectives. We now look forward to helping create a more welcoming and accessible Lincoln Center.”

“After witnessing the construction of Lincoln Center as a young child growing up in Amsterdam Houses nearly 70 years ago, it has been incredibly rewarding to help reimagine it as a more inclusive and welcoming institution,” said **Leonette P. Joseph, Amsterdam Houses Reunion Committee Consultant**. “The Lincoln Center team has engaged community members in thorough and dynamic ways throughout this process, including efforts to document the narratives of surviving San Juan Hill residents. Together, we are creating a new generation of community and performing arts spaces that are more accessible to and representative of the surrounding community.”

“As a native of San Juan Hill and Amsterdam Houses, I commend Lincoln Center for the thoughtful planning process they’re leading,” said **Harold Thomas, former San Juan Hill resident**. “Through the various public engagement opportunities, Lincoln Center has demonstrated a commitment to listening to our voices and valuing our feedback, with the goal of creating a more welcoming and accessible future. I look forward to continuing to participate on behalf of my vibrant community and to opening up the wall that has separated our communities for far too long.”

“Young people are not usually invited to the table for conversations about the future of our communities, so I have been impressed by how much Lincoln Center values the voices of students like myself,” said **Max Wesslock, local high school student**. “As a high school student born and raised in the neighborhood, it is important to have built environments that welcome and engage young people, and I’m excited to be part of making that happen.”

Elected Officials

"For too long Amsterdam Avenue has been the forgotten operations only side of Lincoln Center, said **Rep. Jerrold Nadler**. “It was built with its back turned to its neighbor, NYCHA’s Amsterdam Houses across the street. Last year, Lincoln Center began meeting and engaging with the community in a participatory process to make the Lincoln Center campus more welcoming and accessible. I commend Lincoln Center and its leadership for taking the first step in creating an inclusive Damrosch Park that will offer everyone in the community easy year-round access.”

“All across New York City, we have reimagined our public spaces to better serve the community. We have the opportunity to do that again through the design process for Damrosch Park on the Amsterdam Avenue side of the Lincoln Center campus,” said **Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal**. “Investing in this park will enhance the way that the entire neighborhood, including the residents in NYCHA’s Amsterdam Houses and Amsterdam Addition, and the local public school students, use our outdoor spaces. A redesigned Damrosch Park will not only enrich the local residents, it will draw in new visitors, enhance the artistic community surrounding Lincoln Center, and provide an additional place for families to enjoy the best of what New York City has to offer.”

“The wall that divides Lincoln Center from the wider West Side community is finally coming down,” said **Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal (D/WF-Manhattan), Chair of the Assembly Committee on Housing**. “Over the years, Lincoln Center has welcomed thousands of West Siders, especially those living at NYCHA's Amsterdam Houses, Addition and Harborview campuses to partake in the Center’s many artistic and musical offerings. This much-needed renovation which commemorates the legacy of San Juan Hill will go a long way in honoring that legacy, fostering new neighborhood connections and enhancing an already incredible community gem, Damrosch Park. I look forward to seeing this project come to fruition in the coming years.”

“For too long, the west side has been neglected as a good representation of the vision of the east side when it comes to architecture,” said **Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine**. “Lincoln Center can and should be a cultural institution for everyone, regardless of their status. The architecture of the West Side has been an obstacle to

that vision. Thrilled the people of the West Side will finally have a Lincoln Center that reflects the vibrant community it's a part of."

"The Lincoln Center team has been at NYCHA family days and curated workshops to meet community members where they live, work, and go to school, and I am encouraged by the level of attendance at these robust community discussions," said **Council Member Gale Brewer**. "There's more work to be done, but based on their track record of inclusion, I'm confident that the selected design collaborators will incorporate public input and pay reverence to the social and architectural history in their work."

"Damrosch Park stands as an integral part of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and we are happy to partner with them on the transformation of this important open space for NYC Parks," said **NYC Parks Commissioner Sue Donoghue**. "This revitalization project boosts the vibrancy of Lincoln Center's campus, making it more accessible to the public while elevating it into a modernized performance venue. The performing arts center creates shared spaces to gather, to interact, and contemplate, offering opportunities to reflect on our shared humanity and the ties that bind us together as a society."

"This is an exciting milestone for a project that will chart a more accessible, equitable future for one of our city's most important cultural institutions," said **Cultural Affairs Commissioner Laurie Cumbo**. "Starting with a participatory design process grounded in public engagement is a refreshing way to begin a major renovation project like this, making sure that people from a broad cross section of our city have a sense of shared investment in this project. I can't wait to see the work that leading Black design firms Hood Design Studio and Moody Nolan - along with Weiss/Manfredi - will build on this foundation, as we continue to examine the history of San Juan Hill and reflect the legacy of the neighborhood in this design process."

Design Team

"In reimagining Damrosch Park, we see a pivotal opportunity to reshape Lincoln Center's relationship with the city. By working closely with Lincoln Center and its neighbors, our ambition is to create a landscape that pays homage to the legacy of San Juan Hill while empowering the community to reimagine and reclaim this space in new and meaningful ways," said **Walter Hood, Creative Director and Founder, Hood Design Studio**.

"We are deeply honored to work with Lincoln Center to envision a vibrant theater in the park," said **Marion Weiss and Michael Manfredi, Design Partners at Weiss/Manfredi**. "Bringing down the walls to the west transforms Damrosch Park into a destination for performance and play, discovery and delight, engaging the entire community and connecting the magic of performance to a broader and more diverse public."

"As the largest African American-owned architecture firm in the country, we are deeply committed to community-driven design and engagement, and it's a privilege to

collaborate with Lincoln Center on this transformative project," said **Jonathan Moody, CEO of Moody Nolan**. "By harnessing the power of collective insight and embracing the diverse perspectives of the surrounding community, we aim to reimagine the Amsterdam Avenue side of campus to ensure it not only reflects the vibrancy of the city but also serves as a welcoming space for all, resonating with the spirit of inclusivity and accessibility that defines our practice and our values."