

Wall Street Rising Breakfast
Creating a Memorial at the World Trade Center Site: Next Steps
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THANK YOU JULIE. LET ME BEGIN BY RECOGNIZING THE TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION JULIE AND WALL STREET RISING HAVE MADE TO LOWER MANHATTAN IN THE AFTERMATH OF SEPTEMBER 11TH. IT'S AN ORGANIZATION THAT DID NOT EXIST PRIOR TO THE ATTACKS, AND IT'S ONE OF THOSE RARE INSTANCES WHERE SOMETHING VERY POSITIVE EMERGED FROM SOMETHING SO TRAGIC. JULIE HAS HELPED TO BRING VISITORS DOWNTOWN, BUSINESS ASSISTANCE DOWNTOWN, WORLD RENOWNED ART DOWNTOWN, AND SOON - HER GREATEST CONTRIBUTION TO DATE - A NEW BABY DOWNTOWN. I ONLY REGRET THAT HE – OR SHE – WILL NOT ARRIVE IN TIME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR RESIDENTIAL GRANT PROGRAM FAMILY BONUS. I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT JULIE.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE TREMENDOUS SUPPORT GOVERNOR PATAKI AND MAYOR BLOOMBERG HAVE OFFERED TO THE LMDC- NOT JUST IN REFERENCE TO THE MEMORIAL, BUT THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PLANNING PROCESS.

TODAY I WANT TO DISCUSS THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF LMDC'S MISSION – THE CREATION OF A PERMANENT MEMORIAL TO ALL WHO WERE KILLED ON SEPTEMBER 11TH, AND AT THE 1993 WORLD TRADE CENTER BOMBING. IN LESS THAN THREE WEEKS – ON APRIL 28TH – WE WILL LAUNCH THE MOST AWAITED DESIGN COMPETITION IN HISTORY. ON THE EVE OF THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE, I THINK IT IS APPROPRIATE TO RETRACE HOW WE GOT HERE AND TO DISCUSS HOW WE WILL SELECT A DESIGN FOR THE MEMORIAL BY THIS FALL.

FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER SITE PLANNING EFFORT, THE CENTERPIECE OF OUR WORK HAS ALWAYS REMAINED THE SAME: AN EXCEPTIONAL MEMORIAL TO HONOR THOSE LOST. HOWEVER, TO ARRIVE AT A POINT WHERE A COMPETITION COULD BE LAUNCHED; WE HAD TO COMPLETE TWO PROCESSES:

- FIRST, THE IDENTIFICATION OF A SITE FOR THE MEMORIAL AND A DEFINITION OF ITS CONTEXT; AND

- SECOND, THE CREATION OF A MISSION AND PROGRAM FOR THE MEMORIAL.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE HOW THE BEST MEMORIAL DESIGN COULD HAVE BEEN CONCEIVED AND SELECTED WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING ITS SETTING AND THE SURROUNDING ELEMENTS. THE NINE TEAMS THAT TOOK PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION FOR THE WORLD TRADE CENTER SITE WERE ALL CHARGED WITH MAKING THE MEMORIAL SETTING AND CONTEXT THE OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION – HOW MUCH SPACE IS ALLOTTED FOR THE MEMORIAL? HOW IS THE MEMORIAL EXPERIENCED FROM DIFFERENT APPROACHES? WHAT IS ADJACENT TO AND SURROUNDING THE MEMORIAL?

THE DESIGN WE ULTIMATELY SELECTED – MEMORY FOUNDATIONS BY STUDIO DANIEL LIBESKIND – MET THE MANDATE AND MADE THE MEMORIAL SPACE ITS CENTERPIECE. THIS IS WHY IT RESONATED SO DEEPLY WITH THE PUBLIC. BY LEAVING THE SLURRY WALL EXPOSED AND CREATING A FOUR AND HALF ACRE VOID DANIEL LIBESKIND PROVIDED A DRAMATIC SETTING FOR THE SYMBOLIC MEMORIAL YET TO COME. THE DESIGN LEAVES AN EMPTY CANVAS UPON WHICH WE WILL ASK THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO CREATE A MEMORIAL, WHILE DEFINING THE CONTEXT- THE HEIGHT OF BUILDINGS THAT WILL SURROUND THE MEMORIAL, THE GRAND APPROACH THROUGH THE WEDGE OF LIGHT, AND OTHER CRITICAL ELEMENTS; ALL OF WHICH WILL AID IN THE CREATIVE PROCESS.

BUT THE PHYSICAL SETTING FOR THE MEMORIAL WAS ONLY HALF THE CHALLENGE. WE ALSO HAD TO ADDRESS THE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS OF WHAT THE MEMORIAL SHOULD EMBODY, WHO SHOULD IT MEMORIALIZE, WHAT ELEMENTS SHOULD BE SPECIFIED, AND WHAT ELEMENTS SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE IMAGINATION OF THE ULTIMATE DESIGNER. DRAWING UPON THE WORK OF THE LMDC'S FAMILIES ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THOUSANDS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS, TWO VOLUNTEER COMMITTEES CREATED A MISSION STATEMENT AND PROGRAM FOR THE MEMORIAL.

THE MISSION STATEMENT DESCRIBES THE PURPOSE OF THE MEMORIAL, WHILE THE PROGRAM DESCRIBES THE PRINCIPLES THE MEMORIAL MUST EMBODY AND ELEMENTS IT MUST FEATURE TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE COMPETITION. THE PROGRAM HAS SEVERAL ELEMENTS: FOR EXAMPLE, OUR NATION WAS UNITED BY SEPTEMBER 11TH, AND SO THE MEMORIAL AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER SHOULD HONOR AS ONE NATION ALL THOSE WHO WERE MURDERED ON SEPTEMBER 11 IN SHANKSVILLE, THE PENTAGON AND AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER. THE PROGRAM ALSO CALLS FOR INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION OF EVERY VICTIM...TO MAKE THE FOOTPRINTS VISIBLE... AND TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR A FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR ALL OF THE UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS.

WITH THE MEMORIAL SETTING AND CONTEXT DEFINED, AND THE PROGRAM AND MISSION STATEMENT IN PLACE, WE BEGAN THE PROCESS OF STRUCTURING A COMPETITION. WHILE HISTORY WAS OUR GUIDE – INDEED, WE VISITED MEMORIALS AROUND THE NATION TO GAIN INSIGHT - IN TRUTH, THERE IS NO PERFECT TEMPLATE FOR THE EFFORT WE ARE ABOUT TO EMBARK UPON. ANITA CONTINI - WHO IS DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB SHEPHERDING THIS EFFORT AT LMDC, ALONG WITH HER STAFF AND CONSULTANTS - CREATED A NEW PROCESS. I ALSO WANT TO THANK THE MANY PEOPLE WHO ASSISTED IN DEVELOPING THIS PROCESS, INCLUDING OUR MEMORIAL BOARD WORKING GROUP, DEBORAH WRIGHT AND TOM JOHNSON, AS WELL AS THE MANY PEOPLE ANITA CONSULTED, SUCH AS RICK BELL, PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS. THE PROCESS IS MODELED ON STANDARDS DEVELOPED BY THE AIA, BUT IS ADAPTED TO SUIT OUR UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES. HERE ARE THE BROAD OUTLINES:

THE MISSION STATEMENT AND THE PROGRAM ARE BEING GIVEN EFFECT THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES, WHICH WILL BE RELEASED ON APRIL 28TH, MARKING THE START OF THE REGISTRATION PERIOD FOR THE MEMORIAL COMPETITION. THE LMDC WILL THEN LAUNCH A GLOBAL OUTREACH CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION. ADVERTISEMENTS WILL BE PLACED IN NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES AROUND THE WORLD, AND A PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING THE

COMPETITION WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO 22 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES. A NEW WEBSITE WILL LAUNCH ON APRIL 28TH, WHICH WILL ENABLE PARTICIPANTS TO DOWNLOAD THE GUIDELINES AND REGISTER FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

ALTHOUGH THE ATTACKS OCCURRED ON U.S. SOIL, 91 NATIONS SUFFERED LOSSES ON SEPTEMBER 11TH. THE OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT FOLLOWING THE ATTACKS CONFIRMED THAT FREEDOM IS NOT AN AMERICAN IDEA – BUT A UNIVERSAL IDEAL. THEREFORE, THE COMPETITION WILL BE OPEN TO ANYONE, ANYWHERE, WHO IS 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, WITHOUT REGARD TO NATIONALITY OR PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION. ANYONE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE PART. THE LMDC WILL BEAR THE EXTENSIVE COSTS OF ADMINISTERING THE COMPETITION, AND A NOMINAL SUBMISSION FEE OF \$25 WILL GO TOWARD BUILDING THE MEMORIAL.

AS IS CUSTOMARY IN COMPETITIONS, A DISTINGUISHED JURY WILL SOON BE ASSEMBLED TO SELECT A WINNING DESIGN FOR THE MEMORIAL. THE DESIGNS WILL BE JUDGED AGAINST HOW WELL THEY GIVE EFFECT TO THE MISSION STATEMENT AND PROGRAM, AS SET FORTH IN THE COMPETITION GUIDELINES. EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO RESPECT AND PROTECT THE INTEGRITY AND DISCRETION OF THE JURY, FOR THEY WILL BE CHARGED WITH A DIFFICULT AND SENSITIVE TASK. BUT OUR PROCESS WILL GO FURTHER THAN STANDARD PRACTICE IN ONE IMPORTANT RESPECT. BECAUSE SO MANY PEOPLE WERE AFFECTED BY SEPTEMBER 11TH, WE FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE JURY’S DECISION TO BE INFORMED BY THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

IN EARLY SUMMER, THE LMDC WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PUBLIC TO INFORM THE JURY ABOUT THEIR OPINIONS ON HOW ELEMENTS IN THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE INCORPORATED IN A WINNING DESIGN. THE PURPOSE OF THESE FORUMS IS TO ENSURE THAT THE JURY HAS THE BENEFIT OF KNOWING THE PUBLIC’S ASPIRATIONS WHEN THEY REVIEW SUBMISSIONS AND CAN CONSIDER THOSE ASPIRATIONS DURING THE DECISION MAKING-PROCESS. BUT I WANT TO BE VERY CLEAR: PUBLIC COMMENT WILL NOT BE SOLICITED ON INDIVIDUAL DESIGNS. WE WILL ENTRUST THE JURY WITH

THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY TO SELECT A DESIGN, AND ONCE ENTRUSTED, WE MUST RESPECT THE JURY'S ROLE IN MAKING THE SELECTION.

THE COMPETITION ITSELF WILL OCCUR IN TWO STAGES. IN THE LATE SUMMER AND EARLY FALL, THE JURY WILL REVIEW THE SUBMISSIONS. SUCH SUBMISSIONS WILL REMAIN ANNONYMOUS AS THE JURY NARROWS THEM DOWN TO A GROUP OF FINALISTS. THOSE FINALISTS WILL BE GIVEN A STIPEND TO DEVELOP THEIR CONCEPTS FURTHER. THE JURY WILL SELECT A WINNING DESIGN FROM THE FINALISTS IN THE FALL OF 2003.

THERE ARE MANY OTHER DETAILS THAT WILL BE EXPLAINED IN THE COMING WEEKS LEADING UP TO THE LAUNCH OF THE COMPETITION. LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE WHAT FORM THE MEMORIAL WILL TAKE; JUST AS FEW COULD HAVE IMAGINED DANIEL LIBESKIND'S DESIGN A YEAR AGO. BUT SOME THINGS ARE CERTAIN. THE MEMORIAL WILL NOT ONLY RECALL LIFE – IT WILL REAFFIRM LIFE ITSELF. IT WILL NOT ONLY REMEMBER THOSE WE LOST, IT WILL CELEBRATE THE HEROISM THAT PREVAILED IN THE MINUTES AND MONTHS FOLLOWING THE ATTACK, AND THE RESOLVE OF OUR NATION TO REBUILD. THANK YOU.

I WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.