

Draft Minutes
Chinatown Working Group Meeting
September 7, 2020 6:30 via Zoom

Present: Artists against Displacement (Fran Benitez); Chinese Staff & Workers Association (Zishun Ning); Mobilization against Sweatshops (Briar Winters); Bowery Alliance of Neighbors (Mitchell Grubler); Ian (?)

Also Present: Richard Moses (Lower East Side Preservation Initiative); Robert Hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Susan Yung (Artist).

Meeting called to order 6:35pm & August draft minutes approved.

Agenda: **Update on the Two Bridges Towers Injunction**
 Historical preservation concerns

Fran (Hosting): Discussion of Two Bridges Injunction lawsuit to be updated by Zishun.

Zishun: The Injunction is still in place despite the attempts of City Councilwoman Margaret Chin to have the megatowers pass through the ULURP process even though de Blasio approves the 4 Two Bridges luxury towers that are to be built. The Appellate Court had superceded MC's proposals involving rezoning & negating the concerns for light & air flow of pollutions. The politician's attempts had constantly been misleading for the Chinatown and LES communities. Her interests were to line developer's pockets. Instead the injunction has thousands of signatures resulting in lower court to hold off construction. There is still time to prepare an appeal by October. In order to gain community support and work with tenants, there will be "tabling" Wednesdays & Sundays for dissemination of CWG's plan to:

- a) **stop luxury high-rises,**
- b) **discourage privatization of public land**
- c) **and facilitate truly affordable housing in Chinatown and the Lower East Side.**
- d) **Endorse Christopher Marte for 2021 City Council**

Fran also stated one-third of space will be for voter registrations. Plans are also to have support demonstrations by October 7th hearing.

Richard Moses added he'd be willing to announce their FB LES Preservation Initiative for a rally against rezoning.

Historical Preservation Concerns:

Richard reported the car lot on 62 Mulberry St will be demolished for a 13 story Hotel or Condo. Here's info in NYC's NIMBY newsletter:

<https://newyorkyimby.com/2020/08/permits-filed-for-62-mulberry-street-in-chinatown-manhattan.html>

Zishun will look into further details with open questions.

Brier: Through Neighborhood United probably approach Marte and MC about whether there is resistance of preservation of Mulberry St.

Richard in additions with

1. contact MC & Breuer about the details.
2. ?
3. encourages a letter writing campaign.

Meeting adjourned