



AIA New York Chapter

The Founding Chapter of
The American Institute of Architects

AIA New York Chapter Testimony

New York City Council Committee on Lower Manhattan Redevelopment Committee on Waterfronts June 16, 2006

RE: Oversight – Governors Island: Status of Planning for Development

Good afternoon Chair Gerson and members the committee on Waterfronts. My name is Annie Kurtin, and I am here on behalf of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, representing 4,200 architect and public members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Governors Island is a public asset that must be redeveloped first and foremost in the interests of the public. Therefore we support the following recommendations for the planning process:

1. Involve the public in the planning process now: the Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC) must appoint an Advisory Council and involve it and the broader public in a meaningful way prior to the selection of developers.
2. Establish a framework of infrastructure, parks and public spaces and develop a structure to fund them.
3. Do not let expediency and private dollars determine the long-term character of the Island at the expense of public amenities.
4. Plan early interim uses for Governors Island in order to build a supportive constituency for this public asset and maintain its historic buildings.

The AIA New York Chapter urges the City Council to remain involved, assist GIPEC in its development process, support greater public participation, and provide its share of funding for meaningful public involvement.

Thank you.