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NYC Parks

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June 11, 2025

Andrew Berman, Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation
232 East 11th Street
New York, NY 10003

Dear Mr. Berman,

Following Parks' presentation at the CB2 joint Parks and Landmarks Committee meeting on February 5, 2025, there are new updates on the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center project.

We are excited to share that the FY26 Executive Budget released on May 1st provides \$51.8M in Mayoral funds to build a new, accessible outdoor pool and new pool house building on the site of the existing Tony Dapolito pool and recreation center. This project will incorporate the Keith Haring mural and preserve the Keith Haring legacy while expanding the recreational amenities available to the community.

As we discussed at the February committee meeting, unfortunately, the current building is extensively structurally compromised. Restoring and reopening the building would not be feasible in a way that meets today's recreational programming needs and ADA accessibility. However, the outdoor space and Keith Haring mural can and should have a second life and we hope to explore together how else we can weave these elements into reimagining this site.

As part of this new, fully funded capital project, we are also pursuing a study on the feasibility of re-using additional building elements to honor the site's history. The entire site will remain a park, and the improvements will be for public park use.

We understand the mural is beloved to the community and a critical piece of Keith Haring's legacy. Since it was first painted in 1987, NYC Parks has worked closely with the Keith Haring Foundation for over 30 years to help care for it. Together, we've supported efforts to repaint the mural and keep it true to Haring's original design. We're committed to keeping it well-maintained so it can be enjoyed for years to come — and we look forward to continuing our strong partnership with the Foundation in the years ahead.



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As you know, Manhattan Community Board 2 recommended that we site a new recreation center at 388 Hudson Street, right down the street from the existing Tony Dapolito Recreation Center. We have pursued that vision, working with HPD to incorporate a new NYC Parks recreation center into the RFP for the mixed-use development, which will include a modern, ADA accessible indoor pool, gymnasium for basketball, and other programmatic spaces. Bringing back outdoor pool access to the Tony Dapolito site will help offer a wide range of recreational offerings for this community and ensure that our park and recreational facilities can meet the needs of generations of individuals and families living in this neighborhood to come.

We will keep the community informed through periodic updates to the CB2 Parks Committee as we advance both projects. Additionally, once designers are on board for each project, we will return to the community to seek public input on programming for the Tony Dapolito Outdoor Pool reconstruction as well as for the new NYC Parks Recreation Center at 388 Hudson Street. We will continue to provide temporary measures at the closed recreation building to keep it safe until the pool project commences, and in the immediate term we encourage members to visit Chelsea Recreation Center, Hamilton Fish Recreation Center, and Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center.

With plans to develop a new NYC Parks recreation center at 388 Hudson Street (RFP submissions closed May 23), improve and reconstruct the Tony Dapolito Outdoor Pool area (fully funded), and create new, additional public open space at Hudson Houston Plaza (design completed), we look forward to continuing to work with the community to enhance and expand open space within CB2 and offer vibrant recreational destinations for all New Yorkers.

Best regards,

Siobhan Mitchell

Deputy Chief of Staff, Capital Projects