

NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Lincoln Center West Project

Project Identification

CEQR No. 25DPR014M

SEQRA Classification: Type I

Lead Agency

New York City Department of Parks
and Recreation

Contact Person

New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

Environment and Planning

Attn: Emily Humes, Director of Environmental Review and Program Delivery

The Arsenal, Central Park

830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401

New York, New York 10065

Email: Env.Review@parks.nyc.gov, use subject line “Lincoln Center EIS”

Pursuant to City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR), Mayoral Executive Order No. 91 of 1977, CEQR Rules of Procedure of 1991 and the regulations of Article 8 of the State Environmental Conservation Law, State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) as found in 6 NYCRR Part 617, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been prepared for the action described below. Copies of the DEIS are available for public inspection at <https://www.nycgovparks.org/park-features/damrosch-park/lincoln-center-west> as well as at the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks), The Arsenal in Central Park, and at Riverside Library, 127 Amsterdam Ave, New York, NY 10023. It can also be obtained by contacting NYC Parks at the address below.

A public hearing on the DEIS will be held on December 10, 2025, at 5:00 pm. NYC Parks will hold the public hearing remotely.

(Register here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EdUfN-GNQUa2fFOctNIJag).

Written comments on the DEIS will be accepted by the Lead Agency until 5:00 P.M. on Monday, January 5, 2026, at the contact address above.

A. INTRODUCTION

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. (the “Applicant”) is seeking New York City and State funding (the “Proposed Actions”) to facilitate redevelopment of the Damrosch Park portion of the Lincoln Center campus, as well as additional circulation, streetscape and façade improvements along Amsterdam Avenue (collectively, the “Proposed Project”). Damrosch Park is a public open space located at the corner of West 62nd Street and Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan Community District 7 (Block 1134, Lot 10 and portion of Lots 1 and 25) (the “Project Site”).

The Proposed Project would include the redevelopment of the approximately 2.4-acre Damrosch Park and replacement of the existing Guggenheim Bandshell with a newly improved and modernized outdoor performance venue. The Proposed Project would reconfigure the layout of the Park, moving the performance venue to the eastern portion of Damrosch Park, allowing for greater connectivity and flow throughout the open space and the broader Lincoln Center campus and surrounding neighborhood. In addition to the redesign of Damrosch Park and new

performance venue, the Proposed Project would include sidewalk improvements on the east side of Amsterdam Avenue between West 62nd Street and West 65th Street, the north side of West 62nd Street between Columbus Avenue and Amsterdam Avenue, new seating at the base of the staircase at West 65th Street, and improvements to the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts' (NYPLPA) entrance at Amsterdam Avenue.

The proposed funding is a discretionary action subject to environmental review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR). The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks) will serve as the lead agency for the environmental review. The Dormitory Authority State of New York (DASNY), the Trust for Cultural Resources for the City of New York, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) are expected to provide State and City funding and are involved agencies for the project's coordinated environmental review.

B. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The concept of the Lincoln Center campus was initiated by John D. Rockefeller III, who envisioned a cultural center of unprecedented scale where “the arts are not for the privileged few, but for the many.” To this day, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. (LCPA) remains committed to this ideal and to building a future where all New Yorkers and visitors from around the world feel welcome.

The Lincoln Center campus was originally developed as part of an “urban renewal” project in the 1950s conceived of by Parks Commissioner Robert Moses. The Lincoln Square Redevelopment Project razed a densely populated and mostly residential neighborhood, displacing the thousands who lived there to make way for New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Amsterdam Houses, Lincoln Center, Fordham University, and the Lincoln Towers. The area previously known as San Juan Hill and the broader Lincoln Square area was home to an ethnically diverse and largely working-class community and a hub of artistic creativity. The campus was designed and constructed between 1955 and 1972. Damrosch Park and the Guggenheim Bandshell were constructed by NYC Parks and designed by the landscape architecture firm Darling, Innocenti and Webel in 1969. The Park's design is modernist and rectilinear, influenced by landscape architect Dan Kiley's geometric and gridded approach to the rest of the campus's historic open spaces. Today, the Park generally maintains Kiley's original design intent, although many of the infrastructural systems are well beyond their useful life.

Presently, Damrosch Park and NYPLPA are critical spaces for free programming and public access. Damrosch Park is located on New York City mapped public parkland, under NYC Parks jurisdiction and maintained and operated by LCPA. Damrosch Park has hosted outdoor performances in the Park since its opening in the 1970s, and all LCPA performances in the Park have been free or choose-what-you-pay since 2020.

As described in more detail below under “Project Purpose and Need,” LCPA has evolved over time to welcome new art forms and an increased number of visitors from a range of backgrounds. However, the historic design of the Park turns its back to the neighbors directly across Amsterdam Avenue at NYCHA Amsterdam Houses, with a 10-foot-tall wall and the back of the Guggenheim Bandshell. In order for Damrosch Park to serve as a site for world-class performances and allow for passive recreation by the public, the space is in need of major improvements, including bringing down the wall on Amsterdam Avenue. The Park has limited data/power access; is facing water infiltration challenges; has limited accessible artist accommodations; and has an overall lack

of usable green space. The Proposed Project seeks to transform Damrosch Park by prioritizing places for community use and relaxation, improving pedestrian circulation from surrounding streets, and seamlessly connecting the open space to the rest of the campus, all while accounting for the historical and architectural context of the surrounding area.

In June 2023, LCPA publicly launched an ambitious participatory process to reimagine the Amsterdam Avenue side of campus, including Damrosch Park. The process has engaged Lincoln Center’s constituents, local neighbors, NYCHA residents, community groups, and all New Yorkers in discussion about how the campus could be more welcoming and eliminate barriers—visual, physical and otherwise. The Project’s design team—including Hood Design Studio (landscape architect), Weiss Manfredi (design architect), and Moody Nolan (architect-of-record)—has been informed and guided by the campus’ history, and by feedback from more than 6,200 interactions with neighbors, advocates, community groups, faith-based organizations, nearby educational institutions, elected officials, civic leaders, and other New York City residents. Participants have shared their ideas, interests, questions, and feedback through in-person and online surveys and more than 50 different community engagement events, including interactive pop-ups, workshops, community gatherings, interviews, and focus groups.

As part of the overall participatory process, LCPA has also engaged with local preservation advocates including Landmark West!, Docomomo, and Municipal Arts Society, as well as New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to understand the character-defining features of the historic campus’ architecture and landscape architecture that should inform the redesign while advancing the overall project goals.

C. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT SITE AND SURROUNDING AREA

PROJECT SITE

The Lincoln Center campus occupies approximately 16.3 acres on Manhattan’s Upper West Side, in Manhattan Community District 7 within the Lincoln Square neighborhood. It is generally bounded by West 66th Street to the north, Broadway/Columbus Avenue to the east, West 62nd Street to the south, and Amsterdam Avenue to the west, and is bisected by the West 65th Street corridor.

The Project Site includes an approximately 2.4-acre park on a portion of the Lincoln Center campus, along with a portion of the campus running along Amsterdam Avenue between West 63rd Street and West 65th Street. The Project Site is bounded by West 65th Street to the north, Amsterdam Avenue to the west, West 62nd Street to the south, and the David H. Koch Theater to the east. The Amsterdam Avenue frontage along the Metropolitan Opera House and NYPLPA comprise the Project Site. Damrosch Park is mapped as a park, while the remaining portion of the Project Site on the Lincoln Center campus is mapped within a C4-7 zoning district and is also located within the Special Lincoln Square District (L).

The existing Damrosch Park site currently has an acoustic bandshell (the Guggenheim Bandshell) with support spaces below-grade, an approximately 2,400-seat audience capacity for outdoor performances, and an underutilized passive park area. In order to host LCPA’s free outdoor performances, LCPA must load-in all performance equipment, including the main stage, each year. The Park, therefore, becomes inaccessible to the public for a four-week load-in period while

the performance equipment is set up in front of the Bandshell and a four-week break down period after the summer series concludes. Further, individuals cannot use the rest of the Park during performances due to access and security limitations. As a passive park, there are limited places for people to gather under shade. Currently, the Park includes a small tree grove in the eastern portion of the park with some shaded benches and seating. The majority of the Park consists of concrete pavement with some plantings. Damrosch Park is largely consistent with its original 1969 configuration, including retaining its rectilinear planning (e.g., dance floor, planters) and its more expressive elements (e.g., the Guggenheim Bandshell and wavy patterned terrazzo dance floor), and some other original paving and planter materials. The Park is located within the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts Historic District that has been determined State/National Register-eligible (S/NR-eligible) by OPRHP. The performance and audience areas are mostly empty when not used for events. Additionally, there is notable water damage throughout the concrete slab with penetration points into the below grade parking concourse. There is considerable water leakage at these points, among other areas.

Along Amsterdam Avenue is an existing retaining wall that serves as the western edge of Lincoln Center's campus and conceals many back-of-house areas for the campus. The steep topographic drop from West 62nd Street to West 64th Street provides vertical clearance for vehicles to access the concourse level parking garages. Just as David Geffen Hall and the David H. Koch Theater place their backs to the street, so too does the Metropolitan Opera House. In similar fashion, the Guggenheim Bandshell at Damrosch Park turns its back to the street. Farther north, NYPLPA conceals many important programmatic spaces behind the 20-foot-tall wall at the West 65th Street corner of Amsterdam Avenue: an auditorium, galleries, and archival storage. For these reasons, Amsterdam Avenue serves as the side for back-of-house services and is largely inaccessible for the public to enter the Lincoln Center campus. There are limited tree plantings along the eastern side of Amsterdam Avenue (the west side of the Lincoln Center campus). There is a smaller entrance to NYPLPA at street level for the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center along Amsterdam Avenue; however, the main entrances are at the elevated corner of West 65th Street and Amsterdam Avenue and from Hearst Plaza within the Lincoln Center campus.

SURROUNDING AREA

The area surrounding the Project Site is within the Lincoln Square neighborhood in Manhattan, which contains a mix of residential and community facility uses, with local retail corridors along Broadway. The remainder of the superblock on which the Project Site is located contains other buildings occupied by LCPA and other Lincoln Center constituents, including Metropolitan Opera House, David H. Koch Theater, and David Geffen Hall. There are a number of public plazas and open space areas, such as Damrosch Park, situated throughout the campus.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) 66th Street – Lincoln Center subway station is located on the northeast corner of the campus. Open spaces within 400 feet of the Project Site include Dante Park between Broadway, Columbus Avenue, and West 63rd Street. Central Park is located two blocks east of the Project Site along Central Park West. A newly renovated playground, Samuel N. Bennerson 2nd Playground, is located on the Amsterdam Houses residential campus along West 64th Street. The playground was reconstructed in 2017 and includes basketball courts, playgrounds, spray showers, an adult fitness area, and benches for the community.

The NYCHA development, Amsterdam Houses, located west of the Project Site across Amsterdam Avenue, contains 13 buildings and over 1,000 units. There are several other multifamily residential towers surrounding the Project Site with commercial uses below. The surrounding area is zoned with higher density residential areas, allowing for buildings 12 stories and above.

Immediately south of the Lincoln Center campus is the Fordham University campus, which occupies most of the superblock south of West 62nd Street between Amsterdam Avenue and Columbus Avenue. The university campus is a largely enclosed campus with four academic buildings and one residential hall for students, and a quadrangle courtyard. A number of other academic institutions are located throughout the study area and west of Amsterdam Avenue, including LaGuardia High School and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex, which includes five high schools. Public School (P.S.) 452 is an elementary school serving pre-kindergarten through 5th Grade and is located at 210 West 61st Street.

As previously described, the area is served by the MTA No. 1 train line, which has a station at 66th Street and Broadway, east of the Project Site. MTA bus service is provided within the area along West 65th and West 66th Streets (M66), Broadway (M5, M7, M10, M20, M104, BxM2) and Columbus Avenue (M11).

D. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Proposed Project consists of the redesign and reconfiguration of Damrosch Park, including a new permanent performance venue and additional flexible performance spaces, as well as improvements along Amsterdam Avenue, such as sidewalk improvements, new seating at the base of the staircase on the corner of West 65th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, and minor modifications to the façade of the NYPLPA. The Proposed Project would introduce an approximately 10,500-gsf performance venue to replace the existing Guggenheim Bandshell.

Damrosch Park would be reconfigured to accommodate the relocation of the performance venue to the southeast corner of the Park. The Proposed Project would replace the existing bandshell with a newly designed, world-class performance venue in the southeast corner of the Park. The redesigned performance venue and surrounding pavilion and support space would total approximately 10,500 gsf. The main stage would be designed to include accessible back-of-house spaces (i.e., artist support spaces, storage, audiovisuals, etc.) and to accommodate year-round performances. A flat plaza and tiered seating in front of the stage would provide space for approximately 2,000 seats during events and would also serve as a public open space during non-performance times. The plaza would accommodate audience seats radially configured from the stage on the flat seats at the plaza level with additional seats in the Overlook, an elevated section behind the plaza and described in greater detail below. While the Proposed Project would slightly reduce the overall number of seats from the existing condition, the sightlines for the new seating area would be an improvement to the existing conditions; the last row of audience seating would be 66 feet closer to the stage than in the existing configuration. There is no anticipated change in frequency of events held at Damrosch Park as a result of the Proposed Project.

The Deck and Artists' Grove, which would provide temporary food and beverage facilities and movable seating, would be situated east of the Stage, above the garage entrance along West 62nd Street. The Proposed Project would also provide year-round public amenities for park-goers, including public restrooms on the east side of the Park, separate from the theater building.

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Additionally, the Overlook would serve to provide shaded seating and space for bars, refreshments, and casual seating during performances. In the non-performance season, the Overlook would function as a site landscape element for spontaneous daily activities in the Park, while offering elevated views of the Fountain, Lawn, and East and West Tree Groves.

The Proposed Project integrates smaller performance spaces throughout the Park, including the Lawn and Fountain to the west of the performance venue. The Fountain would be a main feature of the new Park and was one of the most common requests from the community.

The Proposed Project would increase public use of the Park, as Damrosch Park today is currently greatly underutilized. It would also alter the circulation of Damrosch Park, allowing for greater connectivity between the surrounding neighborhood and the Lincoln Center campus. The Proposed Project would remove most of the existing wall surrounding Damrosch Park, including the wall along Amsterdam Avenue, and would incorporate landscaped steps from the street level to the plaza level. The Proposed Project would increase the access points to Damrosch Park, with new entrances along Amsterdam Avenue and 62nd Street. Along Amsterdam Avenue, three gardens would create a path from street level to plaza level and allow for the public to enter Damrosch Park from Amsterdam Avenue. The gardens would be distinct with planting and topography. Additionally, an Art Walk would provide direct access for pedestrians from Amsterdam Avenue to the Josie Robertson Plaza along the northern edge of Damrosch Park and would provide artwork and installations that pay homage to the history of the San Juan Hill neighborhood and arts community. In addition to the Gardens, there would be a Lifted Terrace, accessible via a set of stairs along Amsterdam Avenue to the upper plaza level or via an accessible route next to the Lawn. The Lifted Terrace would cantilever over the garage and concourse entrance below, along Amsterdam Avenue. The Lifted Terrace would provide additional seating and overlook the Dance Floor within the Park.

In addition to the changes made within Damrosch Park, the Proposed Project would include streetscape and façade improvements along Amsterdam Avenue. The Proposed Project would widen the sidewalk along Amsterdam Avenue by approximately 13 feet, creating additional space for pedestrians. The sidewalk expansion would keep the existing bus stop in its current location, while extending the sidewalk along that area. It would also provide new benches and seating opportunities, along with tree plantings along the avenue. The northeast corner of Amsterdam Avenue and West 62nd Street and southeast corner of Amsterdam Avenue and West 65th Street would be expanded to allow for additional pedestrian circulation and refuge. Additionally, there would be a relocation of two existing curb cuts along the north side of West 62nd Street to enable van and small truck deliveries for loading activity into the Park, as well as new tree pits along the sidewalk.

The Proposed Project would also provide expanded seating options at the base of the staircase at NYPLPA at the corner of West 65th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. This would open up the connection between the campus and the street level. The Proposed Project would also include a façade treatment to the NYPLPA along Amsterdam Avenue, creating a greater street presence for the library along Amsterdam Avenue. The removable, reflective panels added to the West 65th Street and Amsterdam Avenue library corner would improve the streetscape and pedestrian experience by creating a more dynamic and welcoming entrance to the Lincoln Center campus rather than the stark corner that exists.

Lastly, the Proposed Project would result in a reduction of up to 40 parking spaces to adjust the capacity of the parking garage for current usage trends and allow for wider concourse-level walkways underground between Amsterdam Avenue and the subway at Columbus Avenue.

E. PROPOSED ACTIONS AND OTHER APPROVALS

The Proposed Project is seeking funding through New York City and State to support its construction. This funding, which will be disbursed through DASNY on behalf of the State and DCLA on behalf of New York City, is a discretionary action subject to environmental review; NYC Parks is serving as the lead agency for the project's environmental review. The Proposed Project is also intending to pursue funding through the Trust for Cultural Resources of the City of New York, a state agency for the purposes of environmental review.

In addition to City and State funding, the Applicant is seeking approvals from the agencies identified below. These approvals are not discretionary actions subject to CEQR, but such agencies will be consulted through the CEQR process:

1. NYC Parks and DCLA approval of the Damrosch Park redesign and related below grade work, and the circulation, streetscape and façade improvements along Amsterdam Avenue as required under an existing License Agreement and the Mapping Agreement;
2. Public Design Commission approval of the Damrosch Park redesign and circulation, streetscape and façade improvements along Amsterdam Avenue;
3. New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) approval of the sidewalk improvements;
4. New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)/OPRHP review of Proposed Project as required for DASNY funding and in accordance with a 2022 Letter of Resolution;
5. Administrative approval of the Director of the Department of City Planning (DCP) to modify Design Controls previously established for the West 65th Street frontage of the Project Site (in connection with Lincoln Center's 65th Street Project that was approved by DCP in 2005 and 2008 and memorialized in and attached to a Mapping Agreement between Lincoln Center and the City, dated May 5, 2008) to reflect the updated design of the corner of West 65th Street and Amsterdam Avenue; and
6. DCP approval of the final design drawings for the West 65th Street corner to ensure "substantial compliance" with the modified Design Controls, as such term is defined in the Mapping Agreement.

F. PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

The Applicant undertook an ambitious participatory planning process engaging local community members and stakeholders across New York City to reimagine the Amsterdam Avenue side of the Lincoln Center campus. The Applicant is seeking to redevelop the western portion of the Lincoln Center campus to introduce improved performance experiences and create a more accessible, welcoming, and inclusive space. The Guggenheim Bandshell at Damrosch Park is currently used to host a number of outdoor arts programming events throughout the year. The Proposed Project would enhance the Park and improve logistics and usage of the space for more performances and recreation. The redesigned park space and performance venue would allow for a wider range of users and a more integrated network with the campus and surrounding communities along Amsterdam Avenue.

Overall, the purpose of the Proposed Project is to modernize and improve Damrosch Park to allow the Applicant to fulfill its mission of world-class performing arts programming accessible to a broad audience. Specifically, the Proposed Project seeks to:

- Physically transform Lincoln Center’s Amsterdam Avenue side by removing the fortress-like wall and welcome communities approaching from the west
- Create world-class performance areas in Damrosch Park that meet artists’ and audiences’ needs
- Design Damrosch Park as a park not a plaza, in contrast to the other open spaces on campus
- Establish a vibrant community park that better serves close neighbors, including residents of New York City Housing Authority campuses at Amsterdam Houses and Addition, and students at LaGuardia High School of Music and Performing Arts and the five high schools at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex
- Celebrate the history and public memory of San Juan Hill and historic Lincoln Square
- Respect architecture and landscape architecture iconic to Lincoln Center campus

In addition to the Proposed Project’s primary goals, a significant priority is also to upgrade aging infrastructure. The Proposed Actions would allow for new and improved heating and cooling systems, power and data distribution, public and back-of-house restroom facilities, and greater access for artists, audiences, and community members. The redeveloped park space and performance venue would be designed to increase efficiency and meet contemporary sustainability standards. The Proposed Project would allow LCPA to enhance free outdoor programming at the newly designed performance venue.

G. ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK

The 2021 *CEQR Technical Manual* (the “*CEQR Technical Manual*”) will serve as a guide on the methodologies and impact criteria for evaluating the Proposed Project’s potential environmental effects. In disclosing impacts, this EIS considers the Proposed Project’s potential adverse impacts on the environmental setting. It is anticipated that the Proposed Project, if approved, would be built and operational by 2028. Consequently, the environmental setting for comparison is not the current environment, but the future environment in which the project is operational. Therefore, the technical analyses and consideration of alternatives includes descriptions of existing conditions, conditions in the future without the Proposed Project (the No Action condition), and conditions in the future with the Proposed Project (the With Action condition). The incremental difference between the With Action and No Action conditions is therefore the basis for evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project.

As detailed in the EAS, and per CEQR guideline thresholds, the following technical areas have been screened out and will not be analyzed in the EIS: socioeconomic conditions; community facilities; shadows; natural resources; water and sewer infrastructure; solid waste and sanitation services; energy; air quality; greenhouse gas emissions and climate change; and noise.

BUILD YEAR

For the purposes of the environmental review, it is assumed that the Proposed Project would start construction in 2026. Construction of the new outdoor performing arts venue is expected to be substantially complete and operational in 2028 in anticipation of the “Summer for the City”

program. Therefore, a future build year of 2028 will be examined to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Project.

THE FUTURE WITHOUT THE PROPOSED PROJECT (NO ACTION CONDITION)

The future without the Proposed Project (the “No Action” condition) describes the future baseline against which the changes that are expected to result from the Proposed Project are compared. The Proposed Project has a build year of 2028. Absent the Proposed Actions, the Project Site would remain largely unchanged after major structural and infrastructure upgrades are implemented. The 2.4-acre footprint of the Park would remain as is and the Guggenheim Bandshell would stay in its current location within the Park. However, many of the components of Damrosch Park, such as paving, seating, and landscaping, would be temporarily removed to allow for maintenance and waterproofing, resulting in abatements to the whole Park, before being restored in-kind. The Lincoln Center campus would continue to lack access points from Amsterdam Avenue and there would be no improvements to the sidewalk or to the NYPLPA entrance at the corner of West 65th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Under the No Action condition, the purpose and need of the Proposed Project would not be met and the reuse and redevelopment of the Project Site would not occur and therefore the No Action condition would not create a cohesive and connected Lincoln Center campus within the broader Lincoln Square neighborhood. Although there would be necessary maintenance improvements to Damrosch Park, the campus would largely remain unchanged. In addition, no new developments are planned within the surrounding neighborhood.

THE FUTURE WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT (WITH ACTION CONDITION)

As described in more detail above, in the future with the Proposed Project (the “With Action” condition) by 2028, the Project Site would be developed with a new outdoor performing arts venue and a redesigned Damrosch Park. In addition to the improved and modernized performance venue, the Proposed Project would include sidewalk improvements, new seating at the base of the staircase at West 65th Street, and modifications to the NYPLPA’s Amsterdam Avenue entrance. The net change or incremental development assessed in the EIS is the difference between the With Action and No Action conditions, which forms the baseline for environmental analyses. This EIS assesses the potential effects of removing the Guggenheim Bandshell and altering the amount and circulation of publicly accessible open space on the Lincoln Center campus. The overall footprint of the Park would remain unchanged, continuing to provide 2.4 acres of park space to the public in the future with the Proposed Project.

H. PROBABLE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTIONS

LAND USE, ZONING, AND PUBLIC POLICY

The Proposed Project would be consistent with the land use, zoning, and public policy on the Project Site and surrounding study area. The Proposed Project would not change the land use of the Project Site and would have a positive effect on the neighborhood by creating accessible and convenient access to Damrosch Park from the west side and creating a more inviting streetscape for residents and park-goers. The Proposed Project would allow for greater connectivity and a more seamless transition between the broader Lincoln Center campus and the surrounding neighborhood. The Proposed Project would expand the Park amenities and features, allowing for greater usage from a wider range of age groups. The Proposed Project would not result in any changes to zoning to the Project Site or surrounding study area as Damrosch Park is not subject to

zoning, given that it is designated parkland, and the sidewalk improvements, modifications to the base of the staircase at West 65th Street, and upgrades to NYPLPA do not require any discretionary land use or zoning approvals. The Proposed Project is also supportive and compatible with applicable public policy in the study area. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in significant adverse impacts with respect to land use, zoning, and public policy.

OPEN SPACE

The Proposed Project would not result in any potential significant adverse impacts to open space resources on the Project Site or in the surrounding study area. The Proposed Project would not alter the overall acreage of the existing Damrosch Park, although it would redesign the Park layout and improve the user experience. The Proposed Project would enhance the open space resource and allow for greater connection with the surrounding campus and neighborhood. The Proposed Project would not increase the residential or worker population and therefore would not result in any indirect impacts to existing open spaces. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in any significant adverse impacts to open space.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section summarizes the potential impacts of the Proposed Project on historic and cultural resources.

The Project Site has been determined to have no potential archaeological sensitivity. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in adverse impacts on archaeological resources.

The Project Site is located within the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts Historic District, which has been determined S/NR-eligible by OPRHP. As the Proposed Project requires the removal of the Guggenheim Bandshell and removal of other architectural and landscape features of Damrosch Park, and the *CEQR Technical Manual* identifies significant adverse impacts on architectural resources to include demolition or removal of architectural resources, the Proposed Project would have a significant adverse impact on the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts Historic District under CEQR. Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA) explored alternatives to avoid or minimize the adverse impact. The feasibility study concluded that, in consideration of the Proposed Project's purpose and need, as well as the constraints in retaining the Guggenheim Bandshell and architectural and landscape features of Damrosch Park to achieve the Proposed Project's goals and objectives, there is no prudent and feasible alternative to the removal of the Guggenheim Bandshell and other architectural and landscape features of the Park.

OPRHP determined in a letter dated May 23, 2025 that pursuant to Section 14.09 of the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law, the proposed demolition of Damrosch Park to install a newly designed park and performance venue, and in consideration of prior alterations made to the Lincoln Center campus, would have an adverse impact on the S/NR-eligible Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts Historic District. To partially mitigate the significant adverse impact, archival recordation would be undertaken through Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)/Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) Level II documentation which would be completed per a forthcoming Letter of Resolution (LOR) to be executed among LCPA, OPRHP and involved agencies pursuant to Section 14.09 of the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law. In addition, an interpretive display would be developed regarding the history of Damrosch Park and the Guggenheim Bandshell which would also be included as a commitment in the LOR. To avoid any inadvertent construction-related impacts from construction

of the Proposed Project, the adjacent Metropolitan Opera House and David H. Koch Theater within the S/NR-eligible Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts Historic District would be included in a Construction Protection Plan (CPP) to be developed and implemented by LCPA during construction.

The Proposed Project would have no significant adverse impacts on any other known and potential architectural resources in the study area: the Amsterdam Houses, Public School 191 (Hudson Honors School), the Sofia Brothers Warehouse, as well the two potential architectural resources, Martin Luther King Jr. Educational Complex and the Good Shepherd Faith Presbyterian Church. The Proposed Project would not substantially alter the setting of the known and potential architectural resources in the study area; would not result in the isolation of these identified known and potential architectural resource from, or alteration of, their setting or visual relationships with the streetscape, including changes to the resources' visual prominence; would not introduce incompatible visual, audible, or atmospheric elements to the resources' setting; and would not eliminate or screen publicly accessible views of these architectural resources.

URBAN DESIGN AND VISUAL RESOURCES

The Proposed Project would not result in significant adverse impacts to urban design or visual resources.

The Proposed Project would be constructed on an existing block and with improvements to the surrounding sidewalks and therefore would not result in any changes to topography, street hierarchy, block shapes, or natural features. There would be slight modifications to the street configuration along Amsterdam Avenue; however, the sidewalk expansion would ultimately not narrow or encroach on any travel lanes.

Compared to the existing primarily hardscape park with its limited greenery and underutilized seating options, the Proposed Project would provide substantial new amenities for park visitors and pedestrians including grassy areas, gardens, groves of trees for shade, a cooling water feature (the Fountain), and other locations for activities and seating. The reconfiguration of the Park would increase public use of Damrosch Park and allow for much greater pedestrian connectivity between the surrounding neighborhood and the Lincoln Center campus. The removal of the existing wall that borders Damrosch Park, including the tall travertine wall along Amsterdam Avenue, would create greater and more welcoming access from the west. Pedestrians on Amsterdam Avenue would have physical and visual access to the Park and views from Amsterdam Avenue that currently consist of a tall wall and the rear of the concrete Guggenheim Bandshell would be replaced with a widened landscaped sidewalk, lawns, gardens, trees, and pathways in the Park.

New architectural features, including the new performing arts venue, would complement and not compete with other built features at the Lincoln Center campus and would also be consistent with the architectural character of the study area, such as Fordham University's campus buildings on the south side of West 62nd Street, which include curved facades, elliptical shapes, and glazed walls.

The Proposed Project would improve public circulation within the park and from the surrounding streets, including through the widening of the sidewalk on Amsterdam Avenue and expansion of the northeast corner of Amsterdam Avenue and West 62nd Street and southeast corner of Amsterdam Avenue and West 65th Street, positively affecting the pedestrian experience. The sidewalk expansion would not narrow or encroach upon any travel lanes on Amsterdam Avenue,

only resulting in the elimination of a 13-foot curb lane between West 62nd Street and West 63rd Street, a reduction of the curb lane to 8 feet between West 63rd Street and West 64th Street, and the elimination of the 13-foot curb lane between West 64th Street and West 65th Street, thereby resulting in only minor changes to street configuration. The proposed expansion of the base of the staircase at the corner of Amsterdam Avenue and West 65th Street would open up the connection between the Lincoln Center campus and the street level and constitute a pedestrian seating amenity. The proposed addition of removable façade treatments at the corner of the NYPLPA at Amsterdam Avenue and West 65th Street and at the NYPLPA entrance would provide visual interest to the pedestrian along Amsterdam Avenue.

The Proposed Project would not obstruct views to any visual resources in the study area. Although the Guggenheim Bandshell, an architectural feature of interest in Damrosch Park on the Project Site would be removed, the reconfigured Park including the new performing arts venue, lawns, gardens, trees and other features including the Fountain and the Overlook would constitute a new visual resource and amenity for park visitors and in the study area, particularly for pedestrians on Amsterdam Avenue and West 62nd Street.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Reconstruction of Damrosch Park would occur within its existing footprint. Limited excavation would be performed within the lowest level of the subterranean parking garage to support construction of new foundation elements for the reconstructed parkland above. The Proposed Project would entail excavation of subsurface materials at select locations within the parking garage to a maximum of 5 feet below existing foundation grade, which may increase pathways for human exposure to any subsurface contaminated materials for on-site workers. However, potential exposure to the surrounding community would be limited by the location of the proposed excavation areas within the existing structure. Further, while these activities could temporarily increase pathways for human exposure for on-site workers, impacts would be avoided by incorporating the following into the Proposed Project:

- A limited subsurface investigation would be performed within the lowest level of the garage at locations where excavation is proposed. The limited subsurface investigation would be performed in accordance with the sampling protocol that was approved by New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The results of the investigation will be detailed in a Phase II investigation report, which will be summarized in the FEIS.
- If DEP determines that a site-specific Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and Construction Health and Safety Plan (CHASP) is warranted based on the results of the limited subsurface investigation, a RAP and CHASP would be prepared for implementation during construction. The RAP and the CHASP (if required) would be submitted to DEP for review and approval. The RAP would address requirements for items such as soil stockpiling, soil disposal and transportation; dust control and odor; quality assurance; and contingency measures should petroleum storage tanks or contamination be unexpectedly encountered. The CHASP would include measures for worker and community protection, including personal protective equipment, dust control, and air monitoring. DEP approval of the RAP and the CHASP would be required prior to soil disturbance.
- If a RAP and a CHASP were prepared for soil disturbance activities, submission of a Remedial Closure Report (RCR) to DEP for review would be required for approval to ensure that the requirements in the RAP and CHASP were implemented during soil disturbing activities. The

RCR will also include a Site Management Plan (SMP), which would detail post-construction maintenance and reporting of engineering controls. The commitment to implement the post-construction maintenance and reporting of engineering controls described in the RCR would be memorialized in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DEP and NYC Parks.

Applicable regulatory requirements would be followed during implementation of the Proposed Project, e.g., for properly disposing of any trash, excess chemicals and soil, lead-based paint (LBP), asbestos containing materials (ACMs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and for following DEP sewer discharge requirements if dewatering is required. With these measures included as part of the Proposed Project, no significant adverse impacts related to hazardous materials would occur either during or following construction at the Project Site.

TRANSPORTATION

TRAFFIC

The Proposed Project would include relocating two existing curb cuts along the north side of West 62nd Street to enable van and small truck deliveries for loading activity into the Park. It would also widen the sidewalk by up to 13 feet along the east side of Amsterdam Avenue between West 62nd Street and West 65th Street without narrowing or encroaching on any travel lanes. Additionally, the project would result in a reduction in up to 40 parking spaces that would not result in substantial traffic diversions and a modest increase in park-goers attracted to Damrosch Park's improved amenities and access. Based on traffic screening and detailed analyses, the Proposed Project would not have the potential for significant adverse traffic impacts.

PEDESTRIANS

The Proposed Project would widen the sidewalk by up to 13 feet along the east side of Amsterdam Avenue between West 62nd Street and West 65th Street which would increase pedestrian safety by decreasing crossing distances for pedestrians crossing Amsterdam Avenue, maintain or increase the effective sidewalk widths and increase street corner circulation areas, and generate a modest increase of approximately 200 park-goers per day attracted to Damrosch Park's improved amenities and access. It is estimated that these additional park-goers would already be in the area and would walk or bike from residential areas, schools, and offices, or originate from within Lincoln Center's campus. Based on pedestrian screening analyses, the Proposed Project does not warrant detailed pedestrian analyses and would not have the potential for significant adverse pedestrian impacts.

PARKING

Although the Proposed Project results in a reduction in up to 40 parking spaces within the on-site garage and changes in parking regulations along the east side of Amsterdam Avenue between West 62nd Street and West 65th Street, it would not generate any increase in off-site parking demand or decrease the amount of on-street parking. As previously described, the additional 200 park-goers per day is not expected to generate parking demand and would be all walk or bicycle trips. Based on parking screening analyses, the Proposed Project does not warrant detailed parking analyses and would not have the potential for significant adverse parking impacts.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Proposed Project would not result in significant adverse impacts in the technical areas related to public health, including air quality, water quality, hazardous materials, or noise. As described above, a number of measures would be undertaken to ensure that the Proposed Project would not result in any significant, unmitigated adverse impacts related to hazardous materials. Therefore, an analysis of public health is not warranted, and the Proposed Project would not result in significant adverse impacts to public health.

NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

The Proposed Project would not result in any potential significant adverse impacts neighborhood character in the surrounding study area. The defining features of neighborhood character are a variety of building forms and land uses, the Lincoln Center campus itself, and the NYCHA Amsterdam Houses. The Proposed Project would be consistent with and supportive of the defining features of neighborhood character.

The Proposed Project would not result in significant adverse impacts to land use, zoning, and public policy; socioeconomic conditions; community facilities; open space; urban design and visual resources; and transportation. Although there would be significant adverse impacts with respect to historic and cultural resources, these impacts would not result in a significant adverse impact to the defining elements of neighborhood character, nor would a combination of effects result in a significant adverse impact to any of the defining features.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction of the Proposed Project would occur over approximately 22 months beginning in 2026, with completion in 2028. As is the case with most construction activity, construction of the Proposed Project may result in localized, temporary disruptions. However, construction of the Proposed Project would be considered “short-term” under the guidance of the *CEQR Technical Manual*, and a variety of measures would be employed to minimize effects. These measures would include noise control, dust suppression, idling restrictions, the use of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel, and best available technology for equipment, as well as DOT-approved traffic control plans, staging coordination, and protective fencing and barriers around the site.

TRANSPORTATION

Construction-period transportation activity is not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts. Traffic volumes generated by workers and deliveries would remain below CEQR thresholds, transit trips would be limited, and pedestrian circulation would be maintained through protected and accessible pathways. Parking demand from construction workers could result in a shortfall at nearby facilities; however, given the project’s Manhattan location, alternative modes of transportation are widely available, and no significant adverse parking impacts are anticipated.

AIR QUALITY, NOISE & VIBRATION

Air quality impacts would be minimized through compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, the use of Tier 4 engines where feasible, and adherence to best practices for emissions reduction. With these measures in place, pollutant concentrations would remain below applicable thresholds. Construction noise could at times be noticeable at sensitive nearby receptors, but

would not persist throughout the duration of the project. Standard noise control practices would be implemented, and any necessary mitigation measures would be identified in coordination with agencies, such as compliance with the New York City Noise Control Code. Vibration levels would be carefully managed, and a Construction Protection Plan would be prepared to avoid inadvertent damage to nearby historic resources.

With the implementation of these measures, and taking into account the short-term nature of construction activity, the Proposed Project would not result in significant adverse impacts in construction-related technical areas.

EFFECTS ON DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

The Proposed Project would not cause or increase a disproportionate pollution burden on Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). The Project would not result in significant adverse impacts in any of the technical areas, including Land Use, Zoning, and Public Policy; Open Space; Historic and Cultural Resources; Urban Design and Visual Resources; Hazardous Materials; Transportation; Public Health; Neighborhood Character; Construction; and any other technical areas that screened out of assessment per CEQR thresholds, and therefore would not result in adverse impacts that would be significantly greater in DACs compared with non-DACs. Instead, the Proposed Project would increase access to green space and increase shade opportunities, reducing the impacts of the urban heat island effect and improving conditions near a DACs.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives selected for consideration in an EIS are generally those which are feasible and have the potential to reduce, eliminate, or avoid adverse impacts of proposed actions while meeting some or all of the goals and objectives of the actions. This EIS considers two alternatives to the Proposed Project: (1) a No Action Alternative, which is mandated by CEQR, and is intended to provide the lead and involved agencies with an assessment of the expected environmental impacts of no action on their part; and (2) a No Unmitigated Significant Adverse Impacts Alternative, which considers changes to the Proposed Project that would eliminate its identified unmitigated significant adverse construction noise impacts.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The No Action Alternative examines future conditions in 2028 but assumes no redesign or reconfiguration of Damrosch Park and no alterations to the Amsterdam Avenue sidewalks, no new seating at the base of the staircase at West 65th Street, and no improvements to the NYPLPA entrance at Amsterdam Avenue.

In the No Action Alternative, as with the Proposed Project, structural and infrastructure upgrades would be implemented. Under the No Action Alternative, many of the components of Damrosch Park, such as paving, seating, and landscaping, would be temporarily removed to allow for maintenance and waterproofing, resulting in abatements to the whole Park, before being restored in-kind. The Guggenheim Bandshell would remain in place, and the Lincoln Center campus would continue to lack access points from Amsterdam Avenue. There would be no improvements to the sidewalks on the east side of Amsterdam Avenue between 62nd and 65th Streets or to the NYPLPA entrance at the corner of West 65th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, including new seating at the base of the staircase on the corner of West 65th Street and Amsterdam Avenue and minor modifications to the façade of the NYPLPA.

Although there would be necessary maintenance improvements to Damrosch Park, the purpose and need of the Proposed Project would not be met. The No Action Alternative would not physically transform Lincoln Center's Amsterdam Avenue side by removing the fortress-like wall and welcome communities approaching from the west, nor would it create a world-class performance area in Damrosch Park that meets the audience and artists' needs. Under the No Action Alternative, Damrosch Park would not be reestablished as a vibrant community park that is integrated and more connected with the surrounding community. Therefore, the No Action condition would not create a cohesive and connected Lincoln Center campus with the broader Lincoln Square neighborhood.

NO UNMITIGATED SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACTS ALTERNATIVE

The No Unmitigated Significant Adverse Impact Alternative examines a scenario in which components of the Proposed Project are changed specifically to avoid the unmitigated significant adverse impacts associated with the Proposed Project. There is the potential for the Proposed Project to result in an unmitigated significant adverse impact related to historic and cultural resources. Other technical areas would not have unmitigated significant adverse impacts. Several options were considered to minimize or avoid the significant impact to historic and cultural resources, including reusing the Guggenheim Bandshell, relocating the Bandshell either to another section of the Damrosch Park or to another location, or removing the Guggenheim Bandshell and constructing a new performing arts venue in its place while retaining the Dan Kiley design elements on the east side of the Park. None of these alternatives could be implemented to eliminate these unmitigated significant adverse impacts without substantially compromising the stated goals of the Proposed Project. They are therefore considered infeasible.

MITIGATION

The Proposed Project is anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts related to historic and cultural resources under CEQR.

Mitigation measures to address this significant adverse impact, where feasible and/or practical, include archival recordation to be undertaken prior to demolition and construction of the Proposed Project, consisting of HABS/HALS Level II documentation which would be completed per a forthcoming LOR to be executed among LCPA, OPRHP and involved agencies pursuant to Section 14.09 of the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law. In addition, an interpretive display would be developed regarding the history of Damrosch Park and the Guggenheim Bandshell which would also be included as a commitment in the LOR.

NYC Parks, as the lead agency, will coordinate with reviewing agencies and further examine and refine these recommended mitigation measures between the DEIS and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). If no feasible and practicable mitigation can be identified, the impacts would remain unavoidable significant adverse impacts of the Proposed Project.

UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Unavoidable significant adverse impacts are defined as those that meet the following two criteria: (1) there are no reasonably practicable mitigation measures to eliminate the impact; and (2) there are no reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Actions that would meet the purpose and need for the actions, eliminate the impact, and not cause other or similar significant adverse impacts.

The Proposed Project would result in a significant adverse impact to historic and cultural resources that would only be partially mitigated. While mitigation measures would be implemented, including HABS/HALS recordation and interpretive materials, these measures would not fully eliminate the adverse impact. There are no feasible alternatives to the Proposed Project that meet the goals of the project. Because this impact cannot be fully mitigated, the impact would constitute an unavoidable significant adverse impact of the Proposed Project.

GROWTH INDUCING ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTIONS

The term “growth-inducing aspects” generally refers to the potential for a proposed project to trigger additional development in areas outside a project site that would otherwise not have such development without the proposed project. The *CEQR Technical Manual* indicates that an analysis of the growth-inducing aspects of a proposed action is appropriate when a project: (1) adds substantial new land use, residents, or new employment that could induce additional development of a similar kind or of support uses, such as retail establishments to serve new residential uses; and/or (2) introduces or greatly expands infrastructure capacity.

The Proposed Project would be limited to Damrosch Park and surrounding streetscape. While the Proposed Project would result in physical improvements to an existing facility, Lincoln Center has been a cultural destination at this location for decades. Visitors already frequent surrounding businesses, and the area is heavily developed, with land use patterns controlled by zoning. The Proposed Project would not introduce or expand infrastructure capacity that could indirectly support additional development.

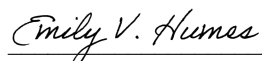
Accordingly, the Proposed Project would not be expected to induce significant new growth in the surrounding area.

IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Resources, both natural and human-made, would be expended in the construction and operation of the Proposed Project. These include building materials, energy in the form of fuel and electricity consumed during construction and operation, and the human effort required to develop, construct, and operate the new facilities.

The resources expended in the construction and operation of the Proposed Project are considered irretrievably committed because their reuse for other purposes would be highly unlikely. The Proposed Project also constitutes the continued commitment of the Project Site as a cultural and open space resource, thereby rendering use for other purposes highly unlikely in the foreseeable future. This commitment of resources is weighed against the public benefits of the Proposed Project, which include creating a world-class performance space, improving access and inclusivity along Amsterdam Avenue, enhancing the design and functionality of Damrosch Park, and advancing Lincoln Center’s broader institutional goals of accessibility, equity, and sustainability.

Overall, while the Proposed Project would result in the commitment of certain man-made and natural resources, it would also result in substantial long-term cultural and recreational benefits for the public and economic benefits for the City.



Emily Humes, Director of Environmental Review and Program Delivery
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

Lincoln Center West Project
CEQR No. 25DPR014M

cc: Manhattan Borough President Mark D. Levine

Gale A. Brewer, NYC Council District 6

Manhattan Community Board 5, District Manager Marisa Mack
Manhattan Community Board 7, District Manager Maxwell Vandervliet
Manhattan Community Board 8, District Manager Will Brightbill
Manhattan Community Board 10, Community Associate Juanita Anderson
Manhattan Community Board 11, District Manager Angel D. Mescain

Office of the Mayor:
Randy Mastro, First Deputy Mayor
Camille Joseph Varlack, Chief of Staff

New York City Department of Cultural Affairs:
Laurie Cumbo, Commissioner
Andrew Burmeister, Assistant Commissioner, Capital Projects
Lance Polivy, General Counsel
Angela Blocker, Director of Capital Projects

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission:
Angie Master, Vice Chair & Commissioner
Mark A. Silberman, General Counsel
Gina Santucci, Director of Environmental Review

New York City Department of City Planning:
Dan Garodnick, Chair
Stephanie Shellooe, Director, Environmental Assessment and Review Division

New York City Department of Transportation:
Ydanis Rodriguez, Commissioner
Shakil Ahmed, Director of OPA/CEQR

New York City Department of Environmental Protection:
Rohit T. Aggarwala, Commissioner
Terrell Estes, Director, Wastewater Review and Special Projects, Bureau of
Environmental Planning and Analysis

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation:
Stephen Watts, Regional Permit Administrator